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History of Bacton.





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THE

History, Antiquities, & Geology,

OF

Bacton, in Norfolk.

BY CHARLES GREEN.

NORWICH:

JOSIAH FLETCHER, UPPER HAYMARKET;

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND CO.

1842.

When the proposal for the present work was issued, announcing its price at 4s., it was not the author's intention to give any engravings ; but, feeling convinced that the work would be more complete with illustrations, he has been induced to give those which now accompany it ; and in order to defray the expense, ventures to charge an additional sixpence, which he trusts will meet with the general approbation of the subscribers.

P R E F A C E.

THE following pages have been drawn up in compliance with the suggestions of many friends, who wished to be possessed of a succinct and authentic history of the village of Bacton to which they refer. This history the writer has endeavoured to give, as far as time and materials would allow.

The notices of Bacton and the Priory of Broomholme hitherto published have been somewhat beyond the reach of many individuals, being generally distributed through various voluminous and expensive works. From these works the writer has gleaned whatever appears to be of importance; and these gleanings, combined with original materials, he trusts, will be useful in bringing further into public notice a village, hitherto but little known, and antiquities but too little valued.

The Geology of this district has been glanced at but partially by Mr. Lyell; and to the statements of that gentleman the writer feels happy in being able to make some interesting additions, which he hopes may, at a future period, serve as the basis of a more extended work.

The illustrations are all original, and were drawn expressly for this work. The sketch of the Section of Cliffs from Happisburgh to Trimmingham is given to show the immediate connection of the chalk with the superimposed strata; evidencing the probability of its being the immediate bed on which the strata rests.

No apology is made for the space taken up in the appendix with the History of the Cluniac Monks. The writer did not know where to abridge, and therefore thought it best to give the facts entire.

The theory inserted in the Geological portion of the work must not be considered as perfect ; it is given as open to amendment, and future investigations may possibly overthrow the conjectures which, with great caution, have now been formed.

To the kindness of many friends the author feels himself indebted, to whom, through this medium, he wishes to return his sincere thanks ; particularly to Charles Lyell, Esq., President of the Geological Society, to Professor Owen of the Royal College of Surgeons, to Professor Mann of Buxton, and numerous others who have kindly assisted in the compilation of this work.

Buxton, 1842.

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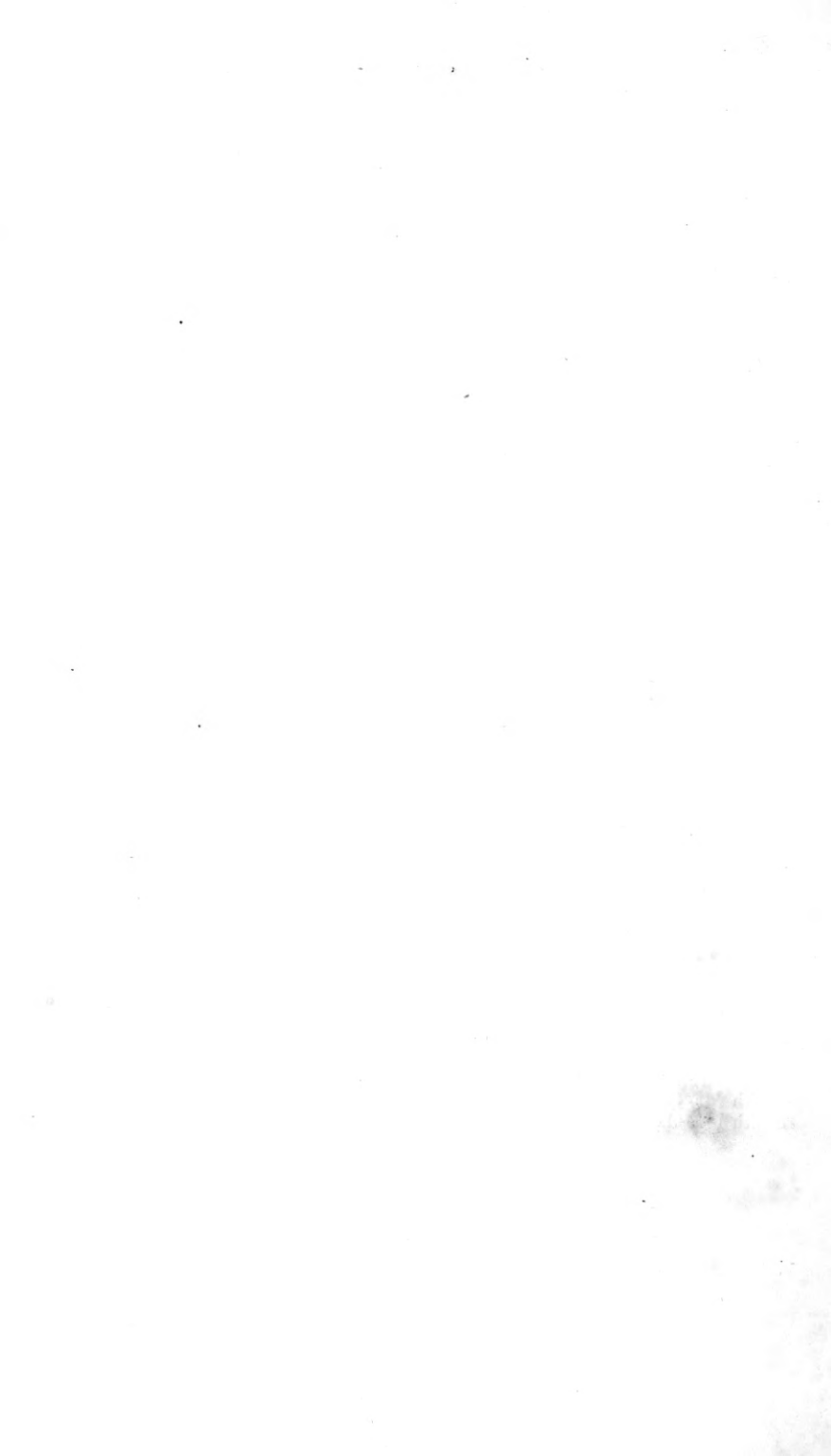
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HISTORY OF BACTON.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY HISTORY.

BACTON, or Backton, written in Domesday, Bake-tuna, is a parish of considerable extent in the hundred of Tunstead, in the county of Norfolk, bounded on the east by Walcote and Happisburgh, on the south by Witton, on the west by Edingtonthorpe and Paston, and on the north by the German ocean; it is distant four miles and a half from the town of North Walsham, twenty-seven from Yarmouth, seventeen from Norwich, and twelve from Cromer.

This village has long been celebrated for its extensive Norman ruins, called Broomholme Priory, or Bacton Abbey.

But little appears to have been known of this place previous to the Norman Conquest. During the time of the Romans, it remained probably in a wild and uncultivated state. In a map published by the Society of Antiquaries, entitled Roman Norfolk, mention is made of Happisburgh as a Roman

station, but no notice whatever is taken of Bacton, or any of the villages at present existing between that place and the town of Cromer. It seems, however, to have been in a state of cultivation during the period of the Saxons, and came early into the possession of Edric, a noted Dane, who, in the reign of King Edward III, invaded and seized on this and other lands in the neighbourhood, and to some distance around, including the villages of Brunstead, Eccles, Happisburgh, Ingham, Waxham, Hickling, and Walcote, with lordships at Sutton and Blakeney, and two manors in Stalham.

At the Conquest, Edric was deprived of them by William, who distributed them among his barons. This Edric was a Thane, or nobleman of the first rank, and is supposed to have borne some relation to Edric the Traitor of King Edmund, surnamed Ironside. After the custom of the Normans he assumed the name of Edric de Laxfield, from a town of the name of Laxfield, in Suffolk. William Earl Warren is mentioned as having had in Bacton, in the Confessor's reign, sixteen acres valued at 2s. The abbot of St. Bennet had the Soc, which went with the lordship of Paston, and the Bishop of Norwich's manor of Paston extended into it. No statement is given of its extent during the time it was held by Edric, nor of its population; but the possibility is, the inhabitants were tenants, who held the lands under him as lord. William the

Conqueror, on his accession to the crown of England, at the general distribution of lands by him, made a grant of this village and manor to Robert Mallet, one of his principal barons, and lord of the honor of Eye, in Suffolk, who held it as a tenant of the crown, or tenant in chief, as the barons were then called; previously to this it was held of this honor by Rodbert. In 1121 it was in the possession of William de Bachetuna, who probably derived his name from the parish. The first description we have of the extent of the village of Bacton is in Domesday book, where it is mentioned as consisting of lands, &c. valued at 110s., and held by fourteen free men at 40s. It was one *leuca* long, and one broad, and paid 15d. gelt. Very soon after the Conquest the ancient family of De Glanville became enfeoffed of it by the Lord Mallet. On the death of Geoffrey de Glanville in the beginning of the reign of Henry III, the inheritance was left to his five sisters and co-heiresses, among whom this lordship was divided. Upon the marriage of four of these sisters, it was separated into four distinct manors, viz. the Earl of Cornwall's, Huntingfield's, Latimer's, and Peche's. Agnes became the wife of Baldwin, a Norman, on or before whose death Henry III seized on his part, forming the Earl of Cornwall's and gave it to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall. Edmund, his son, inherited it in the 15th of Edward I, and had wreck at sea, assize of bread and beer, frank-

pledge, free warren, waif, &c. and a gallows. On his death, 28th Edward I, it was extended to £12 19s. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and was enjoyed by Margaret his widow, on whose decease it came to the crown, and was granted 6th Edward II to Broomholme priory. Emma married John de Gray, by whom she had a daughter, Emma, who by marriage brought the part, called Huntingfield's manor, to William de Huntingfield, of Huntingfield, in Suffolk. This William de Huntingfield, 15th of King John, was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, and an accountant with Alberic de Vere, Earl of Oxford, &c. for the customs of Norfolk and Suffolk.

In 1271 Sir Roger de Huntingfield was lord, and had a chapel in his manor house here, which the prior and convent of Broomholme had granted him leave to erect. Every tenant of the crown was bound, whenever the king went to war, to furnish an armed soldier, and to maintain him in the field forty days for each knight's fee that he possessed. The said Sir Roger de Huntingfield having sent to the assistance of Henry III, in Gascoign, And. de Gayzi his knight, who performed laudable service, the sheriff of Suffolk had an order that the demand of sixty marks, due from him to the king, should be excused.

In the 3rd of Edward III Roger de Huntingfield held of Queen Isabel half a see in Bacton, and also half a see in the honor of Eye in Suffolk; and in the 17th of that king Richard de Keleshull

conveyed by fine to Sir Thomas de Sywardeby the moiety of several messuages, land, &c. with £4 rent in Bacton, Broomholme, Paston, &c. to be enjoyed after the death of Alianore, widow of Roger de Huntingfield, by Richard for life, the remainder to Sir Thomas and his heirs by Elizabeth, sister and co-heiress of Roger.

John de Norwich, citizen and draper of London, 39th of Henry III, conveyed the moiety of Huntingfield hall, in Bacton, to John de Somerton; after this it was conveyed to John de Pieshale, &c.

36th Henry VI, Elizabeth late wife of William de Sywardeby of Sywardeby, in Yorkshire, released to Agnes Paston, and John Paston, Esq. her son, the manor of Huntingfield hall and all the lands late Roger de Huntingfield's and William her husband's here, in Witton, &c. and in the said year Jeffrey Pigot and Margaret his wife, daughter and co-heiress of William Sywardeby conveyed to them their right. In the family of Paston it continued, Sir William Paston dying seized of it in 1611. Basilia, the third daughter and co-heiress of Jeffrey de Glanville, left a daughter and heiress, who brought her interest in Latimer's hall to William de Boyvill. From the Boyvills it came to the Latimers, and Thomas de Latimer was lord 9th Edward III.

34th Edward III, Thomas de Wingfield and Margaret his wife conveyed the manor of Latimer's hall to William Attefen, with the homages and

services of divers persons. 6th Henry VI, Thomas Attefen conveyed it to William Paston, Esq., Peter Savage, and Christiana his wife, widow of Hugh Attefen then holding it for life.

Elizabeth, fourth daughter and co-heiress, brought by marriage her part, called Peche's hall to Almaric Peche; Thomas Peche, his descendant, was living 5th Edward II. Julian, the fifth daughter and co-heiress, is said to have lived a single life; but it appears that she married Simon Peche, a relation to Almaric. His heirs were seized of a manor in Bacton, held of the honor of Eye by the service of sixpence at the end of every thirty-two weeks, and valued at £7 12s. 8d. per annum. This came to the Pastons by the marriage of Cecily, daughter and heiress of Sir Simon Peche and Julian his wife, with Walter de Paston; the late Earl of Yarmouth died possessed of it. In 1603 the manors of Paston, Peche, Latimers, and Huntingfield were valued in the whole at £238 13s. 7d. with 172 combs 2 bushels of barley, &c. and out of these there were £3 9s. 10³/₄d. per annum to the manor of Gimingham by Sir William Paston.

24th Henry III, Jeffrey, son of Bartholomew de Glanville, conveyed by fine to Thomas de Baketon free lands in Bacton.

From the appearance of their having been much wood at the west end of the parish, the mention made of a wood here in olden time may be correct. A spot, for some time bearing the appellation of

Bacton Wood, has lately been reduced to arable land, but there still remains some brushwood between Bacton and Witton heath.

By the number of burials registered in the church book from 1625—1650, the plague appears to have made extensive ravages in the village.

PRESENT STATE.

The present estimate of land in the village of Bacton is about 1600 acres, which is very rich and fertile.

In 1811 the number of inhabitants was stated at 314.

Inhabited houses	.	.	.	57
Uninhabited	.	.	.	3
				<hr/> 60

In 1821 the inhabitants amounted to 388, and in 1829 the census was 498.

In 1841 they were as follows :

Male	.	.	.	.	240
Female	.	.	.	.	273
					<hr/> 513

making an increase of only fifteen since 1829. The number of houses was 121, being sixty-one added since the year 1811.

In the parish are included the several hamlets of Bacton, Bacton Green, Keswic, and Broomholme, distant about a quarter of a mile from each other.

A narrow part extends three miles and a half to the south-west, where there are two farms called the Wood, also a mill known as Bacton Wood Mill. Lord Wodehouse is the principal land owner and impropriator.

Two fairs are mentioned as annually held here; one on the first Monday in August, the other Nov. 30. This last has become obsolete, and the other scarcely merits the name, being chiefly a pleasure mart. Bacton Green, about a quarter of a mile east of the church, is a fishing hamlet near the beach, having three curing houses, with six large and several small fishing boats. By the discovery of extensive oyster beds in the offing in 1821, the prosperity of this hamlet was greatly increased; but these beds have for some years been exhausted. The principal trade at present carried on is in crabs, shrimps, herrings, and other fish, which are caught by the fishermen in great quantities, and despatched to various markets.

On the cliff is a station house for a coast guard, consisting of a commander and five men; and in consequence of the dangerous nature of sands, called Happisburgh sands, a life boat has been purchased by the inhabitants.

In a field belonging to Mr. Thomas Cubitt, at the north-west of the village, is a hill which has excited some interest from its supposed resemblance to a tumulus or sepulchral mound; tradition asserts that, in olden time, it was the scite of a wind mill,

to which purpose the tumuli of our ancestors have not unfrequently been applied; from this circumstance it has derived the name of Mill Hill. Again, it has been said, that the materials of which the mound is composed were brought from Bacton Green, and that it was raised in its present form for cannon, at the time the priory suffered a siege; but being found too near for service, and information having been conveyed to the besiegers by an old woman, who had been an inmate of the abbey, that the weakest part of the building was to the west, they removed their cannon to a place about a quarter of a mile further off, called Butt Hill, whence the abbey suffered some injury and was taken. To the right of this hill is a lane known, at the present day, as Blood Slat Lane, so called from a tradition that the party belonging to the abbey and the besiegers met here, when a desperate engagement took place, and blood flowed in such profusion, that the parties fought in it up to their ancles; but during the troublous times when this priory existed in its glory, the probability is that in one of the numerous rebellions, some fugitives might have taken shelter there, which coming to the knowledge of the assailants, occasioned a skirmish near this place, and gave rise to the before-mentioned tradition. Human bones and cannon balls have been occasionally disinterred whilst plowing up the ground in this direction. The more probable conjectures, however, are, either

that the mound was raised originally for the purpose of erecting a cross upon it, that mariners passing along the coast might see it, and pay their devotions, or that it was a Roman tumulus, or barrow, as the Romans had a station at Happisburgh, not more than two miles and a half distant.

The Rev. Henry Atkinson, A.M., has a residence at the west end of the village, called the Grove, built in the old style, and is of about two centuries standing; it is encompassed with groups of lofty trees, which completely secure the house from the sea breezes during the winter months. At the back is a well arranged garden, from which is a fine prospect of the sea.

THE CHURCH.

Bacton Church, which stands on an elevation above the village, about a quarter of a mile from the sea, is a neat single pile of squared flint and free stone, covered with lead, having a thatched chancel, adorned with a lofty square tower, with one bell. From the style of its architecture the whole building appears to be of the sixteenth century. The tower has been built since 1486, for in that year we find a legacy left expressly for the purpose. On the south-east buttress are the Paston arms, and on the steeple windows those of Paston and Mautby. The original entrance to the church appears to have been to the west, the door in the plain Gothic style having been blocked up in the centre of the tower.

At the north and west corners of the tower are niches in the ornamental Gothic style, but in a very dilapidated state, in which apparently statues have once stood. At the bottom of each niche are shields, probably at one time bearing arms, but they are entirely obliterated by the hand of time. The arch at the porch of the present entrance appears to have been richly ornamented, but is greatly disfigured from continued whitening.

The steeple water spouts are adorned with curious heads, some of which may have been intended by the regulars to intimate the enmity which, in early times, they had against what are termed the seculars.¹

¹ The secular clergy were the parish priests, who were much hated by the monastic, or regular clergy, as they called themselves. The latter, by their continued encroachments upon the former in getting the parochial churches appropriated to themselves, and thus rendering the seculars wholly subservient, and obliged to take what they chose to allow them for the service of cures, or otherwise obtaining dispensations to serve themselves, soon drew down that deep-rooted antipathy which was the cause of the reflections which these various ornaments were intended to convey. Their covetousness soon becoming manifest to the world, led the people to join with the parish priests; and the monasteries and churches appropriated to the monks, or regular clergy, soon became ornamented with representations of lions, wolves, foxes, &c. as emblems of their craft and rapine, fixed with leaden spouts to their mouths. The parochial churches in which the secular interest prevailed were, in like manner, adorned with the representations of monks in their cowls pouring water out of their mouths; every shower being an indication of their excess in gluttony, &c.

The interior of the church presents nothing to attract particular notice. The arms of Harsick are conspicuous, and those of Paston, Delapole, and Wingfield quarterly, and Berry were upon the roof.

The font is English art shortly before the Reformation. The pedestal is richly wrought with canopy work, and rests on four beasts' heads. The basin is octagon, its sides bearing angels holding blank shields, alternating with the symbols of the evangelists.

The altar-piece is a print of very old date, with full length figures of Moses, Aaron, and Joshua, the ten commandments and Lord's prayer being in the centre.

To the left of the gallery stairs is an ancient carved figure in the wall, represented in robes, holding a scroll in one hand, which was removed to its present position some years back when the church was repaired.

The interior of the church can boast of no splendid monumental piles, but there are several neat stones to record departed worth.

In the church was the guild of the Holy Cross.

The church at Bacton was a rectory dedicated to St. Andrew, and granted to the prior of Broomholme by William de Glanville, the founder, who had it appropriated to his house, valued at twenty-five marks, and a vicarage was appointed. The prior, in the time of Edward I, held forty acres

with the rectory, and the vicar had competent edifices, with one carucate of land valued at two marks, and paid two marks per annum to the prior, and the prior had two parts of the wax at the purification of the blessed Virgin. In 1780 its value was estimated at £5 2s. 11d., ob. and is discharged. It is valued in the King's Book at £5 3s. 1½d. In 1746 it was augmented with £200 in land, given by Miles Branthwayte, Esq.; and in 1747 and 1792 with £400 of Queen Ann's bounty.

King Henry VIII, on June 5th, in his thirty-seventh year, granted this rectory, appropriated to the aforesaid priory, with the presentation of the vicarage to Sir Thomas Wodehouse, of Waxham; and in 1603 the vicar returned 197 communicants.

The patronage was afterwards in the Berneys, and since in the Branthwaytes, who were also lords of Broomholme priory.

Miss Norris, a minor, daughter and heir of the late John Norris, Esq. of Witton, who died Jan. 1777, was for some years patron and lady of a considerable part of the town including Broomholme priory, and also lands in several of the neighbouring parishes. From this lady it came into the possession of Colonel, now Lord Wodehouse.²

² This family derive their descent, with little intermission, through a succession of knights from the time of Henry I. In that reign Sir Constable Wodehouse married Isabel, daughter and heiress of the Botetorts. John Wodehouse was a gentleman of

VICARS.

Ralph occurs in	1257
John de Wode (Instituted vicar, presented by the prior of Broomholme)	1325
William de Barkere	1331
John Benne	1349
Edmund	1349
John Trice	1376
Sim Moysie	1400
John Sutton	1401
Ad. Aron	1420
William Snelling	1436
James Smith	1446
John Seyve	1472
Robert Norwich (by the bishop)	1498
William Benet	—
Cuthbert Smith (by John Boyce, assignee of the prior)	1530
Robert Linley (by Thomas, Earl of Wilt- shire)	1539
Stephen Triket (by the bishop)	1554
William Foster (by Sir Thos. Wodehouse)	1569

the privy chamber to Henry V, and attended that monarch into France. At the battle of Agincourt he so much distinguished himself, that the king granted him an augmentation to his arms, with leave to bear, as a motto, Agincourt, and appointed him steward of the duchy of Lancaster, in the county of Norfolk; with a salary of £10 per annum. Sir John Wodehouse, having represented two parliaments, was created baron in 1797.

Thomas Randall (by Sir Henry Wodehouse)	1597
William Cook (by John Smith, Esq.)	1614
William Gough	1663
Nicholas Pollard (by Thomas Berney, Esq.)	1667
John Hobbys (by William Branthwayte)	1675
Henry Francis	1681

On a mural tablet, in the south side of the outer wall of the church, is the following, to the memory of this individual.

Near this place is interr'd
Henry Francis, M.A.
Vic^r. of this Parish, who
died y^e 3^d of Sept^r. 1711.
Aged 52.

Charles Buck (by Julian Branthwayte, being
lord of Broomholme priory) . . . 1711

To his memory, and that of his family, is the following,
in the chancel of the church.

H. S. J.
Carolus Buck. A.M. hujus
Ecclesiæ per triginta quatuor Annos
Pastor, Vir Ingenio acer, Literis
egregius, ast Moribus pene divinus.
Obiit 16^{to} Mar. 1745. Æt. 79.

Jacet item Maria, Uxor pientissima ;
provida, humana atq; benevola.
Obiit 25^{to} Jul.: 1745. Æt. 64.

Jacet & Georgius, Filius obsequentissi-
mus, Indole suavi bonaq; adolescens.
Hunc, dum Patriis Artibus bene instruc-
tus per arduum Virtutis iter fausto
ascendebat Omine, abstulit ante
Diem atra mors
17^{mo} Dec. 1743. Æt. 21.

Jaces et Tu Samuel, Natorum omnium maxime ; Vir priscâ Fide, Benevolentia largâ & insigni pietate. Tabe cæcâ diu laborasti, tandem anhelans moriebaris,
22^{do} Aug. 1748. Æt. 38.

Metyer Reynolds (by Miles Branthwayte, Esq.)	1746
Thomas Hewitt, A.B. (till April 2)	1791

In the chancel is the following, also to this individual.

To the memory of
the Reverend and learned
Thomas Hewitt, A.B.
a man of most exemplary piety
and worth
Who died April 2, 1791.
Aged 76 years.

Ewen	1792
Phillip Aufrere	1806
George J. Aufrere	1811
George L. W. Farquier, the present incumbent	1823

The temporalities of Bacton, with Broomholme and Caswick, were £8 17s. 8d., deducting £1 17s. 8d.

Bacton has suffered much from the encroachments of the sea. In the description of lands appropriated to the Priory of Broomholme are the names of many places which are now quite obsolete, the sites on which they once stood being now occupied by the ocean.³

³ The sea has been gaining considerably for many years upon the whole coast.

The outskirts of the village present a great diversity of scenery, and the extensive prospect which is enjoyed of the sea, as it meets the view from various eminences, contributes much to its pleasant and healthful situation.

MANSIONS IN THE OUTSKIRTS.

Witton hall, late the seat of Lord Wodehouse. This noble quadrangular mansion, built of white brick, with entrance tower in the east front, and demi-octagonal centre, was begun in 1770 by the late John Norris, Esq., who encompassed it with a large park, and fine plantations, but died before its completion.

To the north-west of Bacton is Paston hall, the residence of John Mack, Esq. The mansion is a neat building of white brick, of modern date, and

The greater part of Eccles, with the manor of Gilham hall and Whimpwell, are said to have been swallowed up by an inundation of the sea. The cliffs at Happisburgh are continually wasting by the agitation of tides and storms, and it is calculated the church will be engulfed in the ocean before the close of the present century, the sea having encroached upwards of one hundred and seventy yards during the last sixty years.

The old church at Overstrand, between Mundesley and Cromer, has been also swallowed up by the sea, as in the last year of Richard II, John Reymes alienated half an acre of land for a churchyard to bury the dead, and in the first year of Henry IV, a patent was granted to build the parish church thereon.

The village of Shipden, with its church, dedicated to St. Peter, which laid between Cromer and the sea, has wholly disappeared.

is embowered in wood. The old hall, long the seat of the Paston family, no longer exists; it originally stood near the church, and had two courts; in the inner court was a well. The buttery hatch, with the hall, was standing in 1739; but the chambers over it, and the chapel, were in ruins. Over the door of a great staircase the arms of Berry were carved.

KESWIC.

Time has so effectually cast his mantle over this once rising hamlet, that but little can be gathered as to its former extent, population, or importance. Its situation was to the east of Bacton, and was generally called Keswic, or Casewic, and appears to have been part of the great manor of Bacton, which extended into this place and Broomholme.

The Court Rolls of Bacton Manor are styled "Bacton cum Broomholme and Keswic."

This place was granted by William de Glanville to his priory, on the founding of it, by which it appears to have existed anterior to the date of that building. Bartholomew de Glanville, his son, confirmed the church to the said priory.

In 1382 the church was standing, dedicated to St. Clement, but when it became extinct cannot be determined; extensive ruins remained for many years, and one wall, the northern, is still visible, about a furlong north-east of the priory, support-

ing the walls of the parish houses. The churchyard is now a garden, in the occupation of Mr. Francis Marshall, who in digging frequently finds human bones. The road to the beach is also cut through a part of it, and at the time of making, many cart loads of bones were removed. A considerable part of the parish of Keswic is now in the sea, from the gradual falling of the cliffs.

There is an ancient prophecy respecting the church which runs as follows :—

When Keswic church becomes a barn,
Broomholme Abbey will be a farm.

A barn in the occupation of Mr. W. Sturgess now stands on a part of the scite of the old church ; and Broomholme Abbey is a farm, in the occupation of Mr. W. Cubitt.

CHAPTER II.

BROOMHOLME.

THE parish of Broomholme, or Broomholm, was a beruite, or hamlet, to the town and manor of Bacton, and not mentioned in Domesday, as it was included in the account of the survey of that place. Nothing in history is said about its extent or population, but it has been renowned for its priory, the history of which we now proceed to give.

THE PRIORY.

The Normans surpassed almost every other nation, in any period of history, in the taste they manifested for magnificent buildings.

The early part of the eleventh century was to them an interval of comparative peace and tranquillity, and from this period we may date the commencement of that mania which led the nobility to emulate each other in erecting churches and founding monasteries on their domains in Normandy.

Upon the subjugation of England, by their arms, a general diffusion of their arts immediately followed, and edifices vastly superior to those erected on the continent, soon began to rise in every part of

this country, and when the lands were distributed by the Conqueror among his barons, monasteries were endowed, and the various sees and religious establishments were filled with Norman bishops.

Such was the activity and zeal manifested in the building and restoration of ecclesiastical buildings, and the foundation of these monasteries, that before the end of the eleventh century they were scattered extensively over the kingdom, while many of those already existing were refounded, and the buildings demolished for the purpose of restoring them on a more extensive scale.

To the south, on entering Bacton, situated upon a rising ground about a quarter of a mile from the sea coast, are some extensive ruins called Broomholme Priory, or more commonly known as Bacton Abbey, the remains of which are yet more entire than those of most others. In the legendary tale of Broomholme priory, or the loves of Albert and Agnes, its situation is thus described :—

This cumb'rous fabric near the village stood,
Broomholme by name, its turrets saw the flood
That polish'd bright the pebbly fretted floor,
Which bound the margin of the neighbouring shore.
Whilst stately barks, borne by propitious gales
Upon the main, displayed their whit'ning sails,
Proud in prosperity would smoothly glide,
As murm'ring waves would feel their loves divide.
This hallowed fane, with reverential awe,
Was reared by him who studied virtue's law,
Sir Hugh De Plaiz his name, when England's crown
Destin'd by fate, adorned the brows of John :

To the bless'd Virgin sacred was it made,
To many a saint due homage here was paid.
Here in his wand'rings at devotion's voice,
The unshod pilgrim tarrying would rejoice;
This sacred shrine witness'd the culprit's sigh,
And blest the incense from contrition's eye;
The pealing anthem at the break of morn,
Was to the traveller's ear at distance borne;
The vesper's hymn would chaunt the solemn lay,
As Cynthia beckoned the expiring day;
Around this pile in many a heap were laid,
The simple swain and rustic village maid;
Here oft the organ caught the list'ning ear,
Check'd the quick step, and drew the list'ner near;
The solemn chaunt would linger on the gale,
And fill with mystic sounds the distant vale.

This priory is situated in the deanery of Waxton and Archdeaconry of Norfolk.

About the middle of the village stands the entrance gate, with the porter's lodge, by which the ruins are approached. Within the wall which surrounded the scite is now a farm house, and many of the religious buildings are converted into offices.

With feelings approaching somewhat to the sublime, the lover of antiquity beholds the ruins of former days, he muses on the remnants of departed glory, while his thoughts unconsciously breathe the language of the poet who has thus sweetly moralized:—

How many hearts have here grown cold,
That sleep these mould'ring walls among!
How many beads have here been told!
How many matins here been sung!

On this rude stone, by time long broke,
I think I see some pilgrim kneel;
I think I see the censor smoke,
I think I hear the solemn peal.

But here no more soft music floats,
No holy anthems chaunted now;
All hush'd except the ringdove's notes,
Low murmuring from yon beachen bow.

Yes! where silence now reigns undisturbed, the voice of devotion has oftentimes resounded, and vibrated sweetly upon each passing breeze. Im-mured in each lonely cell, the secluded monks have muttered many a prayer, when driven by the influence of superstition to seek a shelter within these walls, thus to obtain temporal fame, or vainly to fit themselves for heaven.

Couldst thou proud pile but bear testimony to the past, what cruelties practised in the way of penance would be revealed, what vices brought to light, what tales of woe might pierce the ears of those who gaze with wonder and admiration on thy now faded splendour.

Time was when kings and conquerors sought a refuge within thee, and thy walls were made to echo with princely mirth. The banners of royalty were suspended around thy halls, and many a worthy knight rehearsed the tales of chivalry.

“ Many days have pass'd since then,
Many changes thou hast seen.”

Kings and princes now pass thee by, and countries read thy name with unconcern, for "Time has reduced all thy glory to nought!"

The gothic arches, mouldering to decay; the moss-grown stone; the ivied walls; all produce a feeling of awe, and add to the solemnity which pervades this proud but drooping remnant of Norman grandeur.

This priory was founded in 1113, by William de Glanville,⁴ in the reign of Henry I, for monks

⁴ Monasteries, when first instituted, were considered simply as religious houses. To them persons retired that they might escape the noise and clamour of the world, and thus spend their time in solitude by a strict attention to the duties of devotion. But like most institutions they were open to abuse, and accordingly we find that they soon degenerated from their original purpose, and piety and devotion gave way to the amassing of large privileges, exemptions, and riches.

The institution of these houses is generally attributed to St. Anthony, and took its rise some time during the fourth century.

These religious houses prevailed greatly in Britain before the Reformation, and in no part of England were they, perhaps, more numerous than in the county of Norfolk, which possessed the astonishing number of one hundred and twenty-two.

The greater part of these monasteries, there is just reason to fear, were built and endowed by those who, having acquired wealth by force or fraud, were anxious to pacify their consciences by devoting part of it to such pious purposes. Others were induced to take such steps, thinking by that means to expiate their sins and obtain admission into heaven. So deplorably ignorant and depraved were even the wealthy portion of the community of that age, and they were made the easy dupes of a wicked and designing priesthood.

of the order of Cluni,⁵ and was dedicated to St. Andrew, and constituted a cell to Castle Acre.⁶ Bartholomew de Glanville, who was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in the 16th and 22nd of Henry II, confirmed the priory of Castle Acre to this priory.⁷

This priory was remarkable for the possession of a famous relic in the shape of a "little cross," stated to have been made by St. Helena out of that part of the Saviour's cross to which his hands and feet were nailed; particularly the part where it was most sprinkled with his blood, which she gave to her son Constantine, and it was preserved by his successors till it came to Baldwin the emperor, who kept a chaplain to say daily mass before it.⁸ This

⁵ Appendix A.

⁶ Cells were originally houses belonging to large monasteries, where the monks sent their junior brethren, when too much crowded at home, or refractory monks, to do penance for non-compliance with monastic rules.

⁷ Appendix B.

⁸ The empress Helena, mother of Constantine, appears to have been the first to bring the cross into notice, and to make it an object of adoration. Having found a cross in Palestine, which was believed to be the one on which Christ suffered, she conveyed a part of it to Constantinople. Standards and weapons were from that time ornamented with it. This holy relic soon became multiplied. Numberless churches became possessed of it, the miraculous power of which was said to have been proved by the most astonishing facts, and many persons actually believed it could be infinitely divided without decreasing.

The famous cross of Broomholme was probably made from the pieces which St. Helena thus conveyed away.

chaplain dying, one Hugh, a priest, born in Norfolk, was preferred to his place. Baldwin, as long as he had this cross with him in the field, ever prevailed, but forgetting it he was slain. After the death of Baldwin, Hugh stole away with the cross, and gave it to the monastery of Broomholme, where, in gratitude for the gift, he and his two sons were maintained during life. Such is the purport of the story as related by Matthew Paris; *Hist. Angl.* edit 1684, p. 268.

This cross being set up in the chapel of the monastery, soon acquired to the house great honor and wealth, through the successive pilgrimages that were made to it, and which were continued till the year 1223, or most probably till its dissolution, but in that year we find them expressly mentioned. In fact, it is stated that "there was so great a concourse of persons from all parts to reverence it, that the monastery became abundantly rich by the gifts and offerings made."

Edward II held this relic in peculiar veneration, and confirmed a previous grant to this priory "in honour of God and out of his special devotion to the holy cross."

Henry III was a distinguished visitor to the priory during the time it retained possession of this cross, and in his thirteenth year granted the prior and convent a fair on the feast of the "exaltation of the holy cross," and two days after. In the eighteenth year of his reign we find mention

of his being at Broomholme, with his mother and nobles, viz. Peter, Bishop of Winchester; William Earl Warren; Roger le Bigot, Earl of Norfolk; Philip de Albini; Hugh de Spencer; Godfrey de Crawecumb; John Fitz Philip; Thomas de Hermegrave; Bartholomew Peche, &c.

This cross is made frequent mention of in the history of those times. Piers Plowman alludes to the pilgrimages to it in his vision:—

“ But wenden to Walsingham, an my wif Alis,
And byd the roode of Broomholme bring me out of dete.”

Fuller says:—“ Amongst all others, commend me to the crosse at the priory of Bromeholme, in Northfolke.”⁹

Oblations to the holy cross were returned in *Valor Eccles.* 1534, at £5 12s. 9d.; p. 344.

The middle ages were pre-eminently the dark periods of the church, and were marked for the

⁹ The adoration of relics was the occasion of continual pilgrimages, and when we recollect that every means by which the people might become enlightened were kept from their reach, we are not surprised that such marks of deceit were practised upon them with impunity. The prevalent belief in the doctrine of purgatory, and the virtue there was said to be in the masses to redeem souls out of it, or to relieve their pains whilst there, became a pretext for extortion of every kind. Thorpe, who lived at the time when these practises were abundant, says:—“ Examine, whosoever will, twenty of these pilgrims, and he shall not find the men or women that know surely a commandment of God, nor can say their Pater noster and Ave Maria, nor their Credo readily in any manner of language.

prevailing effects of ignorance and idolatry. The holy cross at Boomholme was not without its ascribed virtue, as numerous miracles¹ are said to have been performed upon the devotees at its shrine. Capgrave says that no fewer than “thirty-nine were raised from the dead, and nineteen blind persons recovered their sight by it.”

In this priory were also preserved the “girdle for Zona, and milk of the Blessed Virgin, and fragments of the crosses of St. Peter and St. Andrew.”²

¹ There is no evidence which would lead to the placing of any dependence upon the reality of these miracles. But when the state of society is considered, the ignorance of the people and the power of the church at the time they are stated to have been performed, they appear but as an addition to the list of extensive forgeries which too deeply stain the annals of the church of Rome,—forgeries effected in those dark ages, to deceive the people, and pour into the treasuries of her priests the abundance of their wealth. It is worthy of remark—the monastery of Broomholme did not become rich till miracles were said to be performed by the holy cross.

² The abuses of the church of Rome with respect to relics, have in every age been notorious. Such was the rage for them at one time, that Father Mabillon, a Benedictine, complained that the altars were loaded with suspected relics; numerous spurious ones being every where offered, to the piety and devotion of the faithful. He states too, “that bones were often consecrated which, so far from belonging to saints, probably never belonged to christians!” To show how far this fraud extended, it may only be added that the “girdle” of the Virgin Mary, said to have been possessed by the monastery at Broomholme, was shown, to the visitors appointed by Henry VIII, in eleven different places.

In the year 1229 it appears that a controversy arose between the priors of Lewes, in Sussex, and Acre and the prior of Broomholme, respecting the appointment of a prior to this abbey. Pope Gregory, to put an end to the controversy, referred the matter for determination to the abbot of Ossulveston, in Leicestershire, and the deans of Stamford and Rutland, who, among other things, decreed that the prior of Acre should nominate six monks, three of Acre, and three of Broomholme, out of whom the monastery of Broomholme should choose one for their prior. This decree was made in the church of St. Mary, near the bridge in Stamford, and dated the Wednesday before Palm Sunday, 1229. Pope Celestine V, by a bull dated in his fourth year, granted this priory to be free from any subjection to that of Castle Acre.

Respecting the subjection of the monks to the priory at Castle Acre, it appears that at an early period it was agreed between the convents that the former raising the rents of the fee farm at Witton, which they held of the monks at Acre, ten shillings a year, the latter should remit and quit all other claims whatsoever which they had upon the monks of Broomholme in the form of aids or recognitions.

By an original and unpublished deed, in the possession of Dawson Turner, Esq., of Yarmouth, dated 2 Henry VIII,³ it appears that an agreement

³ Appendix C.

was entered into between the priors of Castle Acre and of Broomholme, stipulating that for the following five years the latter should pay to the former only twelve pounds, in lieu of the accustomed annuity of fifteen pounds, six shillings, and eightpence, the reduction being made in consequence of the dilapidated state of the buildings and the weight of their debts. This deed proves that the priory of Broomholme was not altogether freed from a certain dependence upon Castle Acre up to this period.

Of the individuals who filled the office of prior, we have mention of Vincent, the first prior, inducted to the abbey in the reign of Henry I. Philip about 1210. Vincent, 21 Henry III. Clement, 42 Henry III. This appears by a fine, then levied between him and William de St. Omer, of forty shillings in arrear due to the prior. John, 53 Henry III, and 1 Ed. I. William de Totington, died prior 6 Ed. I, upon April 4th, in which year William de Wytton received confirmation as prior. Lawrence de Reppe, 9 Ed. II. John, 11 Ed. III. Robert, 14 Henry VI. John Tytleshall, 1460. John Macham. John Underwood, 1509, suffragan bishop to the bishop of Norwich, by the title of John, bishop of Chalcedon. William Lakenham, 22 Henry VIII. This individual appears to have been the last prior.

This priory appears to have been, when first established, inhabited by seven or eight monks from

Castle Acre, but in 1466 the number is stated at ten, including the prior.

It appears from the "Paston Letters," vol. ii, p. 81, that John Paston, heir of Sir John Fastolfe, was buried at Broomholm, and some curious details are preserved relative to the funeral and funeral procession. These particulars are given in full by Blomefield;² but the following abridged account is extracted by permission from a work³ about to be edited by Dawson Turner, Esq., of Yarmouth, whose kindness the author rejoices thus gratefully to record.

"The body of the Lord of Caister was conveyed from London into Norfolk in sumptuous state; priests, dirge-singers, and torch-bearers attending all the way. The latter, twelve poor men, who each received a groat per diem during the six days employed upon the journey, were escorted by thirty-nine children, in surplices, to the church of St. Peter at Hungate,⁴ in Norwich, where the corpse lay a considerable time exposed in state. During all this period, the bells incessantly tolled, the priests

² Vol. iii, p. 692.

³ *Sketch of the History of Caister Castle, near Yarmouth, &c.*, 8vo., 1842.—A book at present unpublished, but which may shortly be expected to issue from the press.

⁴ "The name of this church is derived from its vicinity to one of the gates of the Episcopal Palace, near which the Bishop of Norwich kept his hounds; and they, in the first instance, imparted their name to the *Houndgate*, and then to the church of St. Peter, adjoining it." *Hist. Caister Castle*.

chaunted, and the four orders of friars watched near the coffin, and read aloud. Nor were gratuities wanting; for a sum of £8 was distributed amongst the monks that performed the service; while the thirty-eight priests received 12s. 8d.; and twenty-three nuns, a groat a-piece. Still farther, twenty shillings' worth of wine was given to the singers; and even the surpliced boys, 'within the scurche and without,' (as the document expresses it,) had 3s. 4d. to divide among them. Sweeping along, with equal state and cost, the procession held the even tenor of its way to Broomholm Priory, its final resting-place. There, within the walls of that noble monastery, they deposited the object of their care; and then indeed the revelry and banqueting began. It can hardly fail of appearing to those of the present day wonderful, when they learn the scale upon which this system of rioting—for such it cannot but have been—was conducted. For three continuous days, one man was engaged in no other occupation than that of flaying beasts; and provision was made of thirteen barrels of beer, twenty-seven barrels of ale, one barrel 'of beer of the greatest assyze,' and 'a roundlet of rede wine of xv gallons.' All these, however, copious as they seem, proved inadequate to the demand; for the account goes on to state, that five coombs of malt at one time, and ten coombs at another, were brewed up expressly for the occasion. Meat, too, was in proportion to the liquor: the country round about

must have been swept of geese, chickens, capons, and 'such small gear,' all which, with the thirteen hundred eggs, the twenty gallons of milk and eight of cream, 'forty-one pyggs, forty-nine calves, and ten nete' slain and devoured, give a fearful picture of the scene of festivity the abbey-walls at that time beheld. Amongst such provisions, the article of bread bears nearly the same proportion as in Falstaff's bill of fare. The one 'half-penny worth' of the staff of life to the 'inordinate quantity of sack,' was acted over again in Broomholm Priory; but then, on the other hand, in matter of consumption, the torches, the many pounds' weight of wax to burn over the grave, and the separate candles of enormous stature and girth, form prodigious items.

On such an occasion, it is pleasant to find that almsgiving had not been omitted; and that, amongst all the above-enumerated goods 'which perish in the using,' some better treasure had been laid up in store. The opportunity was not let slip for enriching the churches of Bacton, Paston, Gresham, and other places in the vicinity; and not those alone, but twelve at a distance—amongst them, Reedham steeple, which, at that time, was needing repairs, and halting for lack of funds. Indiscriminate largesses, too, however little calculated to do real good, were even more abundant: no less a sum than £20 was changed from gold into smaller coin, that it might be showered amongst the attendant throng; and twenty-six marcs in

copper had been used for the same object in London, before the procession began to move.

A few of the remaining items are rather amusing as well as curious; for, that a barber should have been occupied five days in smartening up the monks for the ceremony, affords a glimpse of earth and its vanities, which it could hardly be expected would have been seen within the convent's world-excluding precincts. Nor could any one, unaided, have imagined, that 'the reke of the torches at the dirige' should, to such a degree, have filled the church and beclouded its atmosphere, as to require that the glazier should remove two panes from the windows, to give the mantling fumes opportunity to escape.

At length, having committed the body to the earth amidst all this encircling pomp, and having provided for the spirit's weal, by founding commemorative services in perpetuity, they remunerated the vicar of the neighboring parish of Wood-Dalling with 8s. 4d. for a pardon fetched from Rome, and gratified him, in addition, with the present of a black gown and cope, technically called a 'frogge of worstead.' "

DESCRIPTION OF THE RUINS.

From the very deranged state of the ruins, it is scarcely possible to form a decided opinion of the particular purpose to which each part of the abbey was applied.

The principal gate is to the north, and appears to have formed a noble gothic arch, a great part of which has fallen into decay. At each corner of this entrance is a shield of finely cut flint. On either side of the gate stood the porter's lodge.

Another gate to the west, on the east side of the bridge, over the moat, is of smaller dimensions, but the arch is fallen. The lodges here seem to have been of the same kind as at the principal gate.

The north transept of the church, now converted into a granary, commonly termed the dove-house, remains nearly entire; the entrance doorway forming a circular Norman arch, is destitute of architectural ornament. The other parts of the church are in ruins; but its extent is marked by the remains of large circular arches, which overhang many parts, and by a wall, in which there is a niche, where probably was deposited the basin for the holy water.

In 1838 a skull was discovered, supposed to have belonged to a corpse buried in the church. This church was one hundred paces (gressus) long, and twenty-five broad. In it was the guild of the holy

cross. The Lady chapel was probably to the east.

The chapter-house adjoined the church. Its ruins present a noble relic of the venerable pile, with its large gothic window to the east, and castellated walls, commanding a fine view of the sea. Next to the chapter-house came the refectory, with the large hall, or dining apartment. A room, probably the kitchen to the monastery, must have existed where the large fire-place stands.

The quadrangle and cloister to the south of the church adjoined the transept, and extended westward. Over the cloisters was probably the dormitory, or sleeping apartment of the monks.

No exact traces can be gained of the precise place where the prior's apartments were situated, but it is conjectured they were to the west.

The priory precinct, partly walled and partly moated, occupies about thirty acres. The walls were about twelve feet in height, but part of them have been taken down, and others have fallen into decay.

The burial ground is situated to the east of the ruins, in a field now styled the Dove-house close. Whilst ploughing, some years back, in this field, several stone coffins were met with a little below the surface.

The nave and transept of the church (except the west front) may have been of the original edifice. The west front, the choir, and most of the conventual buildings, are presumed to be of a later date,

perhaps erected when an addition was made to the fame and revenues of the house by the acquisition of the holy cross.

Whilst digging, in 1840, for gravel, to the west of the church, an entrance was discovered a few feet below the surface, which appeared to lead to some vault connected with the building; it was approached by steps paved with freestone. About the same time, a font was found amongst some old rubbish, but I regret to state that it was very soon destroyed; it appears to have been of a circular form, and quite plain.

Several pieces of money have at various times been picked up about the ruins, but they have thrown no light whatever upon the history of the place, being chiefly what are termed Abbey counters.

The register belonging to the priory was in bishop Moor's library, and is now in the library of the University of Cambridge.

Tanner and Edmonson give the arms of Broomholme priory, Arg. a cross voided sable, double cottised of the last, all within a border Or.

Blomefield says: Arg. a cross, gu. upon a pedestal of three steps, with a greater and less transverse at top.

Le Neve in his MS. states: Arg. a cross, sable, fimbriated Or. upon a pedestal of one step within a border Or.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE PRIORY.

At the period from which we may date those magnificent and ancient buildings, whose ruins still attest their grandeur, arts, sciences, and learning, were principally confined to the clerical order. There is great reason to believe, says the editor of the *Pictorial History of England*, that it was their architectural skill which produced the designs, which their wealth contributed to carry into execution.

The share which the clerical architect took in the work was probably confined to the general dimensions, outline, and character of the building; the actual construction was the business of the master mason; while the subordinate parts, with their various details, were confided to a class of operative artists, unknown in the present age, whose minds, as well as hands, were occupied upon the mouldings and decorations which they invented as well as executed; each man's province being extremely limited. It is difficult, upon any other theory, to account for the combination and unity of design, with the vast variety of detail, of the works of the middle ages.

The architectural style of the priory of Broomholme appears to be that of the Norman and the early or lancet gothic united.

The editor of the *General History of the County of Norfolk* says: "A part of its architecture is so

entirely of the same style as Norwich Cathedral, that it can scarcely be doubted but they are of the same era." "They may probably," says Mr. Cotman, "be of the same hand."

The north transept, with its triforium arches, many of which still remain, bears some resemblance to those of Norwich Cathedral and the church of St. Nicholas, Yarmouth.

The churches generally were built in the form of the latin cross, terminating at the end in a semi-circular apsis. The internal elevations consisted of three divisions, the lower arches—the triforium, occupying the space between the vaulting and external roof of the side aisles—and the clerestory.

The circular arched entrance, north of the transept, appears to be built of Caen stone, and though plain, attests the origin of at least this part of the building. To the east a very lofty arch presents itself, of the early gothic.

The chapter-house has a very large window, of the early pointed gothic, supposed to have been added in the reign of Henry VII, but it appears of a much earlier date.

The arcades on the face of the interior walls are very plain and simple; and are intended to take off the effect of a large extent of plain surface, as the windows are but small. This appears to have been usual in all Norman architecture.

The chimney is very modern, as the builders of the middle ages gave the preference to warming

their halls by a central hearth, leaving the smoke to blacken the roof and escape as it best might by an open lantern.

The niche in the dove-house, which bears traces of the ornamented gothic, was probably added, with other parts of the building, as the abbey increased in fame and opulence.

The following are the supposed dimensions of the various buildings, &c.

The church	. . .	112 feet
Pigeon house (north transept)		22 feet by 18 feet
Chancel	. . .	23 feet
Quadrangle	. . .	73 feet by 47 feet
Cloister	. . .	76 feet by 21 feet
Large hall	. . .	100 feet by 24 feet

PRIVILEGES AND GRANTS.

The prior and monks of Broomholme enjoyed many privileges and had extensive grants of land in the country round, among which the following may be enumerated.

William de Glanville, the founder, endowed the priory with lands in Bacton, Keswick, &c. This grant was confirmed by his eldest son Bartholomew, by deed, after his father's death, and included "the land of Stanard, the priest, and the church of Keswick, and the appurtenances in Broomholme, the church of Dilham, with its appurtenances, the whole tithe of his lordship of Bacton, and two parts of the tithe of Stainges, Horham, Arleton, Langho, and Brug, belonging to his lordship; also of

Sneseling, with all the tithe of his mills in Bacton and Wilefort, two parts of the tithe of the mill of Honing, and one mill at Mundesley, with the land of Herfrid, the priest, and part of his wood in the mill way to Takesgate; two parts of the tithe of various homages or tenants of Roger de Baketon, Geffrey, the priest of Honing, Walter Utlage, &c; all the tithe of Richard, son of Ketel, and the whole tithe of the paunage of Bacton and Horham, and of the turbage, or turfs, of Swathefield, two parts."

At his death, the said Bartholomew also bequeathed to the priory, Gristomb, and all that he possessed in the fields there, with his villains, to be free and quit from all customs, except the king's dane-geld. He also gave them the church of Paston, with its appurtenances, with all his wood and land there, with his land at Guncho, and at Briges at Aldehithe, and Lawceland, and of Editha de Briges; thirty acres by the sea, and a meadow at Brereholme; the tithe of what was provided for his own house, a marsh by Broomholme, ten other acres by the sea, and the tithe of Richard, the priest of Bachetuna, all in honour of God, the Virgin Mary, and St. Andrew the Apostle, for the health of his own soul, his father's, and all his friends, living and dead.

On the death of Robert Lord Mallett, his son Robert being in rebellion against Henry I, was deprived of all his possessions in England, and this

manor, which he held (*in capite*) was granted to Stephen, Earl of Moreton, and Boulogne, in France, (son of the Earl of Blois) who, by his præcipe to his justiciary of Suffolk and Norfolk, and all his faithful men, without date, let them know that he granted to the monks of Acre, at Bacton, and confirmed "whatsoever William de Glanville, their founder, had given; also, all the land and men which he had at Gueneholme, with sixteen shillings and one penny rent, and orders and commands that they may enjoy peaceably in all his lordship what they possess."

From the register of this monastery it appears also, that King Henry I gave to Vincent the manor of Burgh, which Ralph, the son of Roger de Burgh, or Burgo, held of him in Burgh, in Lothingland, by serjeanty, which serjeanty Ralph granted to William de Wesenham, and he afterwards regranted to the king, and the king confirmed the manor free to the convent, reserving the advowson to the crown, and the dower of Alice, widow of Roger de Burgo, for her life; and in consideration of this grant, the convent released to the king a rent charge of five marks per annum, from the exchequer, which the king had granted in the 29th year of his reign.

Sarah, widow of Joceline de Burgo, gave eight shillings and eightpence, rent in Yarmouth.

John de Annok, and Milesentia his wife, gave their land, with certain buildings in Yarmouth, &c.

Agnes de Rollesby gave an annual rent there of eighteen shillings and eightpence.

Elsten Kemp gave fourpence in Lodoweystoft, or Lowestoft.

Walter de Blundeston gave Lambcote, and a marsh there.

Richard, son of Ralph de Paston, gave twelvepence, rent in Paston.

Gilbert, son of Nicholas de Repps, gave twelvepence, rent in Repps.

These grants were confirmed by Henry III, in the eighteenth year of his reign.

After this it fell as an escheat to the crown, and Richard, Earl of Cornwall, son of King John, and brother to Henry III, held it (*in capite*) and was patron of the priory. On his death it came again to the crown, Margaret, his wife, having some dower in the said capital lordship.

Edward II, in his sixth year, in honour of God, and out of his special devotion to the holy cross of this priory, and for one hundred marks paid to him, confirmed to the priory the manor of Baketon, with wreck at sea, and all other privileges, on the payment of twenty pounds per annum into the exchequer as a fee farm rent for ever.

William de Crostweyt, son of Godfrey de Skyton, gave two parts of his tithe to this priory. The deed is undated.

Gilbert, son of Thomas, knight of Ilketeshall, gave them his tithes in Hedenham, in 1252; these

consisted of two garbs from the demesnes of Gilbert, two garbs of the demesne of Roger de Mohaut, in Cressingland, and two from the demesne of Roger de Colville, of Ca..ton.

15th Henry VI. In this year an agreement was made between William Delapole, Earl of Suffolk, and Robert, then prior, that whereas the said prior and convent held the fifth part of the manor of Bacton, called the king's part, paying yearly to the said earl and his heirs male, twenty pounds, and by virtue of that part had a certain leet and view of frankpledge belonging to it, valued at 34s. 4d. per annum,—the prior, granted to the said earl the aforesaid leet, 34s. 4d., wreck at sea, &c., belonging to it for his life, and the said earl covenanted to pay the sum of 34s. 4d. to the prior, out of £20 annual fee farm payable to him by the prior.

In the reign of Henry VII it was possessed by the widow of John Delapole, Earl of Lincoln.

William, prior of Castle Acre and his convent, granted, for ever, to Broomholme, the church at Witton, with the tithe of the manor land, upon condition of their paying 40 . . . per annum to Acre.

Sir John la Veile, or Velie, knight of Witton, and Lettice his wife, released all their right in the church of Hanninges for twenty marks in the 1st of Ed. III. Also in the church at Witton, and the mediety of Ridlington.

The prior and convent of Broomholme held lands in fee farm of the prior and convent of Acre,

at the annual rent of fourteen marks, 5s. 4d., payable at three terms by the year, viz. at the feast of St. Michael, 64s., at the Purification, 64s., and at Pentecost, 64s.

15th Ed. I. The prior had view of frankpledge, a pillory, tumbrel, and wreck at sea, from Milkelham, to the meer that divides the hundreds of Tunstead and Happing.

Pope Celestine, in the first year of his pontificate, confirmed to this house the churches of Bacton, Casewyk, Paston, Witton, and Dilham.

Pope Gregory, in his thirteenth year, confirmed Hanninges church, appropriated to them, but a vicarage was reserved.

King Edward II granted to the monks here the manor of Blaketon, to hold in fee farm, at the yearly rent of twenty pounds.

Besides the churches before mentioned, license was granted, in the 30th of Ed. III, to appropriate the church of Warham, in Norfolk, and a similar license was given, in the 8th of Richard II, to appropriate that of Bardwell, in Suffolk.

14th Richard II. Roger Crispin, of Sprowston, surrendered, by fine, Felthorpe, to John Aslake, of Broomholme.

In the register of Broomholme, fol. 43, it appears that there was a controversy between Sir William de Gyney and the prior, about the advowson of the church at Dilham, and Sir William covenanted to release and levy a fine, the prior paying him

forty-five marks of silver, and to deliver a deed, under seal, dated at Crostwick, 2 Ed. I, reserving to himself the right to his chapel there, and the services of the prior's tenant.

In the 9th Ed. II, Lawrence de Reppe, prior of Broomholme, had a lordship at Edingthorpe; and in the 16th year of the same reign Lawrence died, possessed of a manor held by the Earl Warren, by the service of ten shillings per annum, and valued at one hundred shillings per annum, and left two daughters and co-heiresses, one of whom brought it to John de Wilby, or Willoughby, in the 18th year of the said reign. In 1302 the prior of Broomholme was rector impropriate. In 1318, Francis de Trois, instituted rector, having a right to the tithes of certain lands in this parish, which were detained from him by the prior, on a suit, recovered his right to them.

In the register of the priory is an entry of a deed of agreement, about the 14th Edward I, between Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, and John de Honing, whereby the earl releases all his right of the lands of the said John, that they shall not be amerced at his court-leet at Bacton for breach of assize, &c.

In the reign of this king the prior was obliged to pay to the abbot of St. Bennet of Holme £4 10s. per annum, for two parts of the tithe of the demesnes of John de Veile, in Honing, and for tithes in Paston.

15th Edward III, a license in Mortmain was

granted for the priory to purchase a fifth part of the manor of Thomas Peche in Baketon, of Henry de Sidestrand and Robert de Walesham, the manor being held by the king in capite as of his honor of Eye. Robert de Skelton, clerk, and John de Hap-pisburgh, rector of Berdwell, conveyed another part of the same manor to the monks, to found a chantry in the priory church for a monk to pray for their souls.

20th Edward III, Robert Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, was capital lord.

51st Edward III, Reginald de Dunham, heir of John de Veile, gave to the abbey of Broomholme eight acres of land in Ridlington and Broomholme, and the advowson of a moiety of the church which he held, with his manors of Fishley and Witton, of the king, by keeping a goshawk for him. In the reign of this king he was impleaded for stopping the water course at Ridlington bridge, between Witton and Ridlington, and ordered to let it have its usual course.

The prior of Broomholme had a lordship in Witton of the priory of Castle Acre, in the reign of Richard I, when a controversy arose; the priory of Broomholme used to pay to that of Castle Acre thirteen marks, 8s. 8d. per annum for the same; but having improved the said farm and lordship, it was agreed that, for the future fourteen marks and five shillings and four pence should be paid to it per annum. To this agreement William de

Glanville, patron of the priory of Broomholme, set his seal.

Ralph, son of Richard de Witton, gave by deed, without date, several lands here.

Lawrence Attehill de Witton released to the said prior all his right with certain free tenants, and a piece of common.

Roger Baxter of Witton gave lands also to the said prior, who was retained, 9th Edward II, as lord; and the temporalities were £9 2s. 9d.

Besides the before mentioned grants, &c. the priory had temporalities of the following parishes: Crostwick, (near Hainford) Felthorpe, Barton Turf, Dilham, Paston, Sloley, Tunstead, North Walsham, Westwick, Fishley, Brumstead, Hap-pisburgh, &c.

Blomefield mentions amongst the benefactors Henry I after 1113, and Sir John Fastolf in 1459.

Hearne, in his preface to Adam de Domerham, p. 58, has printed a grant from Richard de Paston to the priory of Broomholme of certain rents for keeping their books in repair:—copied from an old ledger book pertaining to the priory, which Feb. 8, 1726, was in the hands of Mr. Paston of Pauntly, in Gloucestershire.

At the time of the Norwich taxation, 1291, it had rents in 56 parishes in Norfolk and Norwich.

	£	s.	d.
Norfolk, 56 parishes . .	74	17	7
Suffolk, 16 parishes . . .	54	18	4

The endowment before the Dissolution comprised the impropriation of nine churches in Norfolk, and four in Suffolk, ten manors and possessions, lands and interests in fifty-eight parishes.

In the 26th year of Henry VIII, the gross revenues of this priory were rated at £144 19s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., the net income at £100 5s. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

CHAPTER III.

GEOLOGY, ETC.

The village of Bacton is situated in a valley, encompassed on both sides by rising land. Its cliffs do not extend to a greater height than twenty feet above the surface of the beach ; while those of Happisburgh, Paston, and Mundesley rise from fifty to one hundred feet.

The cliffs generally consist of clay, sand, and loam. By some writers they have been termed Mud Cliffs, from their dark colour and general appearance. Mr. Lyell includes them in a series called the Boulder Formation.

Mr. Woodward, in his Outline of the Geology of Norfolk, considers them to be of diluvial origin, but upon close inspection they are found to contain strata and fossils which partake of the characters, and may be ascribed to various parts of the tertiary period.

The cliffs form part of an extensive series extending from Happisburgh lighthouses to Weybourne, north-west of Cromer, comprising a distance of about twenty miles, and are supposed continuously to rest upon chalk.

References to Fig. 1 and 2.

1. Beach, blue clay and lignite
2. Fresh water
3. Ferruginous gravel
4. Crag
5. Chalk beach

Fig. 1.



Fig 2



Fig 3

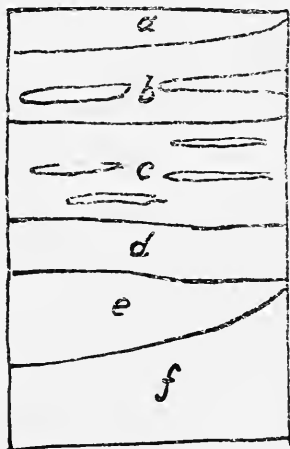


Fig 4

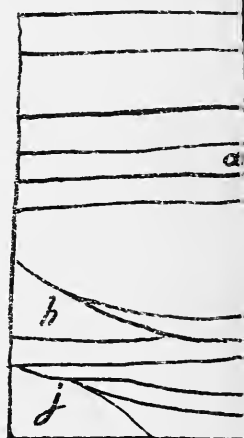


Fig 6

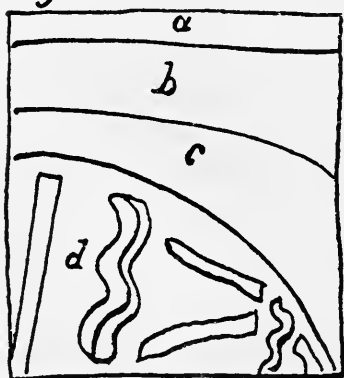


Fig 7



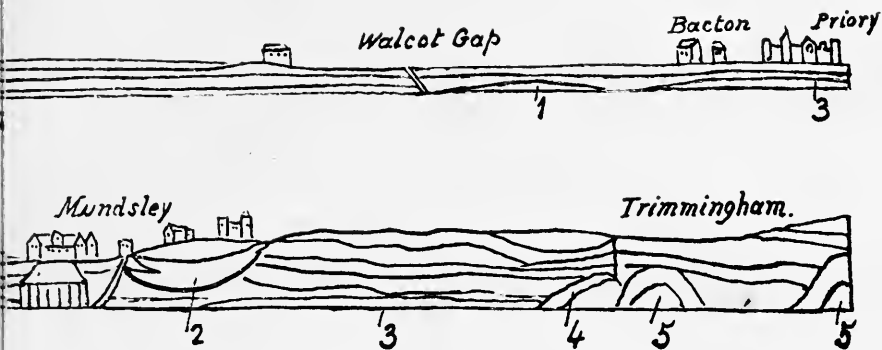


Fig 5

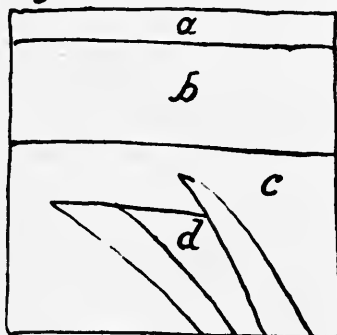
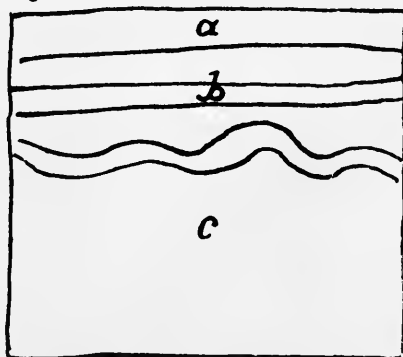


Fig 8



In some places the cliffs are very regularly stratified, presenting, at various parts, immense layers of red and white sand; but in other places they are wholly devoid of stratification, exhibiting one continuous mass of till.

The till prevails extensively near Happisburgh and Mundesley, and occupies often nearly the whole extent of the cliff.

The following division will give a pretty correct idea of the position of the various strata.

Tertiary	{	Diluvial	{	1 Brown clay, containing bones of the horse, ox, &c.
			{	2 Till
	{	Newer	{	3 Crag
		Pliocene	{	4 Fresh water, lacustrine, lignite, &c.
	{	Older	{	5 Blue clay
		Pliocene	{	6 Red gravel
			}	containing the bones of elephants, rhinoceros, &c.
Secondary	{	Eocene	{	7 Green sand, { with bones of extinct mammalia
				8 Chalk

The entire series of these cliffs bears evidence of great and successive changes. The strata in many places are folded and bent,¹ and superimposed upon others which have undergone no dislocation whatever. On the till, with an even horizontal surface, beds of laminated clay and sand are seen to repose, succeeded by vertical, bent, and contorted beds, having a covering of coarse gravel and flints.

Small pits or furrows may be seen between Bacton and Mundesley, at various distances from

¹ Section 6, (d.)

the top of the cliffs, filled with fragments of white chalk; regular strata being superimposed.² Many of these furrows are several feet in width and depth. In the till to the east of Bacton these furrows are again largely developed.

The till and marl, layers of which are met with towards Mundesley, frequently present grooved surfaces,³ and at different places appear to dip into the beach, the grooves left being filled with superimposed sand. The gravel also takes a like dip.

While, on the one hand, there are evidences which prove the slow deposition of some of these strata, on the other there are proofs of great convulsions and derangement.

Before proceeding to a regular description of the separate strata it may be interesting to inquire,

IS CHALK THE IMMEDIATE BED ON WHICH THE
STRATA RESTS ?

It is very probable that chalk is the immediate bed.

First. About half a mile north-west of Mundesley, about low water mark, the chalk is met with, and for upwards of a mile, forms the beach. Near Trimmingham are three very remarkable protuberances which rise up and form a part of lofty cliffs.⁴

Further northward masses of chalk are included in the drift, or crop out in the interior at a short

² Section 7, (cc.)

³ Section 8.

⁴ Section 2, (fig. 5.)

distance from the shore, as at Overstrand, near Cromer, where a pit has been worked, in which the chalk is in a very disturbed and shattered state.

At Cromer the chalk has been again detected, and is everywhere the fundamental rock lying about the level of low water, and rising on the north of that town to the height of some yards above that level. At Sherringham it ascends above high water mark, and enters largely, from thence to Weybourne, into the strata of the cliffs.

From the appearance then of so much chalk in the immediate neighbourhood, and some of it apparently in an undisturbed state, as may be seen by its horizontal layers of flint at Sherringham, beyond doubt its existence may be concluded both to the east as well as the north.

Secondly. In the year 1836, the humerus bone, probably of the Great Mastodon, was found at Bacton after a very high tide, one side of which, from the appearance it presents, must have reposed upon the chalk. This bone was discovered in the red gravel, which, in many places, is the nearest bed to the chalk. Fragments of chalk are attached to the bone.

Having offered the facts upon which my opinion of this probability is based, I proceed to a description of the strata at Bacton, as they occur in the order of superposition, and commence with the

TILL.

This term is a provincial word, widely used in Scotland for similar masses of unstratified matter, which contain boulders, and the same term has been applied by Mr. Lyell to this part of the Norfolk strata.

The till is of a dark blue colour, somewhat resembling that of the London clay, and has been classed by some writers with that formation, because of the boulders in which it abounds. Mr. Woodward calls it blue clay. Between this and the regular blue clay, however, a positive distinction must be made.

This till forms a large portion of the cliffs between Happisburgh and Mundesley, rising in some places from twenty to nearly eighty feet in perpendicular height. The whole of its organic remains appear to have been washed from other formations to be deposited in it, and it contains, mingled with them, fragments of almost every rock of the secondary and primary series; comprehending immense blocks of granite, porphyry, greenstone, oolite, lias, chalk, pebbles, trap, micaceous chist, sandstones of various kinds, chert, marl, &c. &c.

Amongst the fossils found in the till, the following may be mentioned.

Littorina littorea from the Crag .

<i>Cardium</i>	}	fragments . . . —
<i>Tellina</i>		

Gryphea	Lias
Pholas crispata	Clay
Pholadomya murchisoni	Inferior oolite
Cardium hillanum . . .	Green sand
Isocardia tener	Kelloways rock
Avicula inæqualvis . . .	Inferior oolite
— ovalis	Coral rag
— media	London clay
Plagiostema punctatum .	Lias
Terebratula crumena . .	Mountain limestone
Ammonites jaculates . .	—
— rotiformis	Lias
— maculatus	—
— heretophylla	—
— taylorii	—
— serratus	Chalk
Hamites gigas	Limestone
Belemnites electrinus . .	Chalk
— mucronatus	—
Pyrites	—
Echinus	—
Fragments of wood probably from the forest bed	
Jet	
Teeth and bones of Ich-	
thyosaurus	Lias

In consequence of the peculiarity which has been already named as relating to the origin of its organic remains, the till cannot be distinctly referred to either the fresh water or marine formations. Near Happisburgh it is much intermixed with chalk.

The next stratum, as we descend beneath the till, is the

CRAG,

A layer of which, between the watch-house and coal gaps, has been termed by Mr. Lyell hard ferruginous crag. It consists of several thin plates containing compressed wood, fragmentary and whole shells, intermixed with clay, gravel and white sand. This bed forms a kind of dip towards the north-west, having a support of red sand on the one side, and green sand on the other.

This layer I met with in my researches during the year 1839, and on communicating the result of my labours to Mr. J. B. Wigham of Norwich, for whose inspection I sent some of the shells, &c. that gentleman pronounced it to be a section of the crag which is more largely developed at Cromer, Runton, and Weybourne.

The section marked 4 will illustrate its position.

1. Green sand, i, containing shells from the beach upwards.
2. Red sand, j, on the opposite side.
3. Hard crag, g, first layer beginning in the red sand.
4. Green sand, i, dividing the upper from the lower crag.
5. Red sand, f, h.
6. Upper crag, g, dividing the red sand, f, h, and containing shells, bones, and seed vessels.
7. White sand, veined with clay, d, e.

8. Purple clay, c.

9. Brown clay, b.

The whole height of the cliff is about twenty feet.

I have seen this section very low after high tides, and noticed beneath the green sand the red gravel which contains the elephant remains.

The shells obtained from the crag are

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Littorina littorea</i> | 6. <i>Fusus contrarius</i> |
| 2. <i>Mytilus antiquorum</i> | 7. — <i>striatus</i> |
| 3. <i>Scalaria greenlandica</i> | 8. <i>Cardium</i> , fragments |
| 4. — <i>minuta</i> | 9. <i>Turbinolia</i> |
| 5. <i>Astarte plana</i> | |

With these shells were vertebræ of fish, corresponding with those found in the crag at Sutton in Suffolk, and at Norwich; also scales of fish, bones and teeth of fish, and bones, teeth, and jaws of rodenta. Mr. Lyell mentions the rodenta as being found at Norwich, and names it "*Arvicola*?" In this deposit also occur the bones of larger mammalia, probably a species of deer, with the remains of birds.

The vegetable remains consist of wood, grass, reed, fir cones, seed vessels and fruit. One of the seed vessels resembles in shape that of *Ceretophyllum demersum*, figured by Mr. Brown, (*English Botany*, 497) but is without the lobes.

The green sand contains but two species of shells.

This bed of fossils seems to extend to some distance inland; for I have been informed that, when excavating a well near Bacton green, about 300 yards from the beach, this same crag was met with.

Between Bacton coal gap and Mundesley, vertical layers of crag occur,⁵ composed of thickly cemented fragments of shells.

Immediately beneath the crag occur those formations which are generally termed Fresh Water, consisting of lignite and lacustrine deposits.

LACUSTRINE.

At several spots between Happisburgh and Mundesley these deposits may be examined. They contain many species of shells, with fish and bones of mammalia.

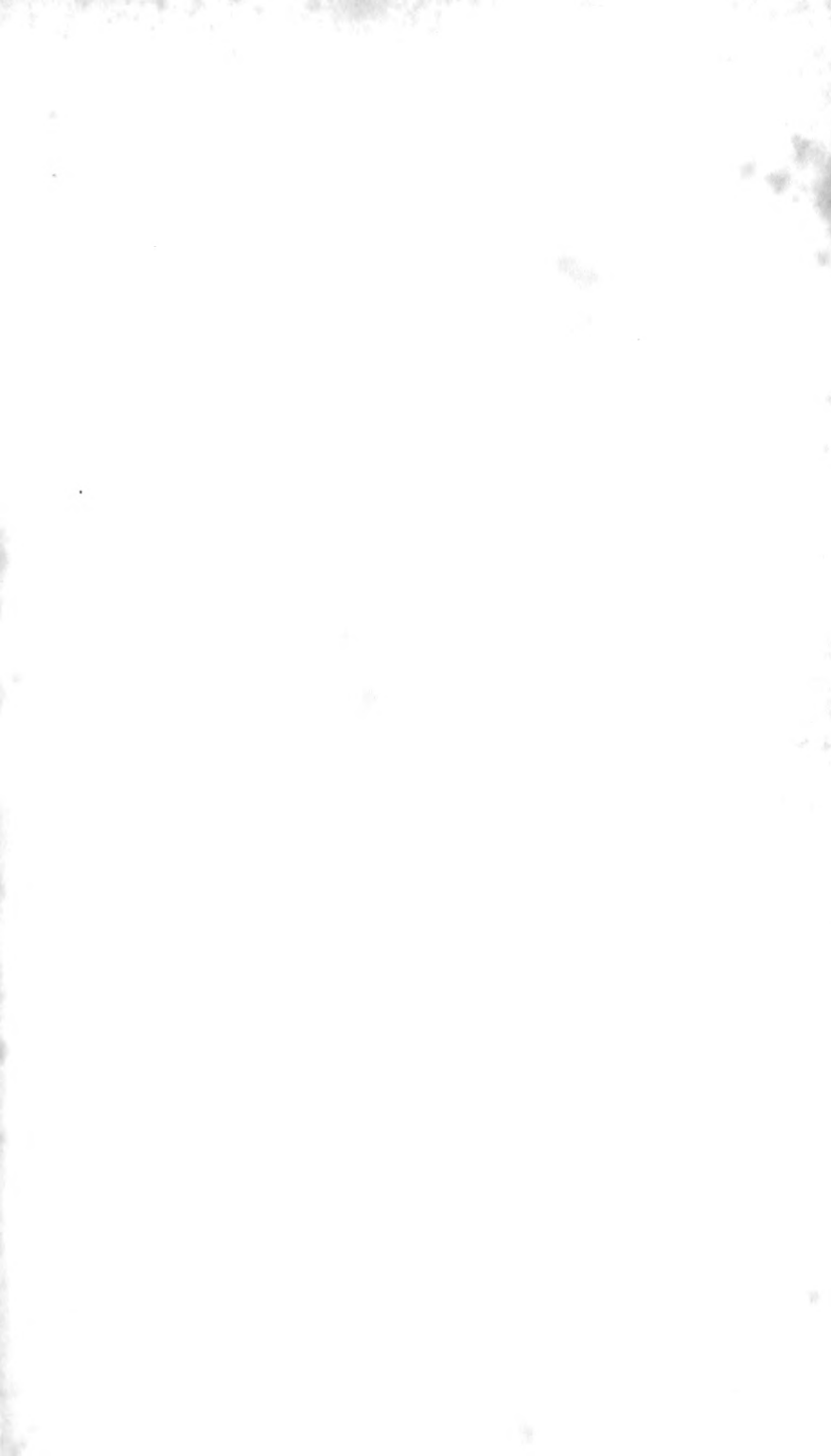
The first of these occurs at a place called Ostend, between Happisburgh and Bacton, about half a mile from the latter place. It is composed of bluish mud, with occasional patches of brown clay, and extends several hundred yards along the beach. This formation I discovered in August, 1841.

I have obtained from this place the following shells :

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Cyclas cornea</i> | 6. <i>Planorbis vortex</i> |
| 2. — <i>pusilla</i> | 7. <i>Cypris</i> |
| 3. <i>Succinea intermedia</i> | 8. <i>Unio</i> or <i>Anodon</i> |
| 4. <i>Paludina</i> | 9. <i>Ancylus lacustris</i> |
| 5. <i>Valvata</i> | |

Under this bed a greenish kind of mud occurs intermixed with sand, containing various mamma-

⁵ Section 5, (d.)









lian and other remains. The following may be particularly named.

Elephas primogenus,—teeth and jaws.

Deer,—bones and horns of two kinds.

Rodenta,—bones, jaws, and teeth of four species, (probably arvicola, shrew, hedgehog, and mole.)

Sauria,—bones and jaws.

I also here met with the remains of birds, fish, seed vessels, and fragments of wood. Some of the seed vessels belong to the *Ceratophyllum demersum*.

In this mud I discovered, in the month of September, 1841, the group of bones given in the accompanying plate. A little above the ordinary low water mark, I had observed two ridges of blue clay several feet apart, commencing to run out into the sea at right angles to the line of coast. They are marked from the surrounding surface of the beach, by an irregular elevation of from one to two feet, and include between them a hollowed space which is only uncovered when the ebbing of spring tides, and the prevalence of north westerly winds, combine to repress the waters of the ocean beneath their usual bounds. It is in this space that the richest mine of organic deposit occurs, and it was here that under peculiarly favourable circumstances this particular group of bones was exposed. They were surrounded by fragments of wood, grass, and leaves, and were lying in all probability as they had been originally deposited, excepting that the many deficient bones which would be needed to

complete the skeleton had been washed away from them by the waves, which were but just ceasing to break over them, and would have returned in the course of a short hour to sweep them also from the sphere of human observation. None of them bear any traces that would lead to the inference that they had been drifted to the spot, but on the other hand all their grooves and processes are perfect, as they would have been had the animal been gently entombed soon after it had ceased to live. A lower jaw, precisely analogous to that of the animal, but not corresponding with that of the plate in its articular process, although of the opposite side, was removed from the same place a short time after. It is worthy of remark, that the scales and jaws of fishes are abundant here, in the same deposit with the mammalian bones. It would be difficult to determine whether the latter may not have been received and deposited here by the waters of some stream, in which the former were fulfilling the purposes of life. Fragments of cylindrical bones have also been found in this locality, which, to all appearance, have belonged to allied species.

On communicating the discovery to Professor Owen, of the Royal College of Surgeons, and sending a tooth for that gentleman's inspection, he stated, that "there is sufficient to prove the tooth to have belonged to a vegetable feeder: more allied to anoplotherium than to any ordinary ruminant."

The following is a description of the animal as it appeared after restoration.⁶

The inferior maxillary bone is perfect from the sixth molar tooth to the alveoli of the incisor teeth, the incisors themselves are wanting, and also the angle and ramus of the zone. The entire length of the fragment is five inches, and in front a smooth surface, one inch and a half long, intervenes between the first molar tooth and the irregular termination. There is no trace of the canine teeth; the first molar tooth is but just rising from the surface of the alveolus. The fifth consists of three irregular cylinders united together, each containing a hollow crescentic space on its grinding surface. The structure being thus perfectly analogous to that described by Cuvier, as belonging to the seventh molar of the inferior jaw of the *palæotherium*.

Of the superior maxillary bone there are only a few fragments. The third molar tooth, consisting of a single irregular cylinder, and the fourth, fifth, and sixth molars are each marked into double lobes by a longitudinal furrow; these are all separate from each other with irregular fragments of the alveolar processes attached. Anteriorly is a fragment marked by a smooth border, about an inch and a half long, without any teeth, like the described portion of the lower jaw.

⁶ For this description and restoration of the skeleton I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. R. J. Mann, of Buxton.

Of the skull there are, the occipital protuberance, one parietal bone, and a small fragment of the second. The frontal bone divided by a mesial suture, and terminating anteriorly in the nasal spine. The perrous portions of both temporal bones, and also the squamous portion of one marked by the root of the zygoma.

Of the cervical vertebræ the atlas and axis are wanting. The fourth and fifth are connected together, their conjoined length being about two inches; the rest are deficient, excepting an irregular fragment of the body of the last cervical or first dorsal.

Of the dorsal vertebræ, there are only a few imperfect fragments.

Of the ribs. The first is nearly perfect, marked by its flatures; also three others nearly perfect, probably the fourth, fifth, and sixth. Portions of the seventh and eighth, the groove being present, but the heads wanting. Two or three fragments of the lower parts of others.

Of the lumber vertebræ. There are four joined together, the entire length of the four being six inches, and the depth of each, from the tip of the spinous process to the inferior edge of the body, two inches and a quarter. The articulating and transverse processes are nearly all perfect. The bodies are cylinders flattened from above downwards.

Of the caudal vertebræ, there are six; their

conjoined length being four inches, and the last appearing to be almost the termination of the tail.

The anterior extremity. The scapula has its spine nearly perfect, its posterior termination only being wanting with the posterior superior angle. The glenoid cavity and supra spinous fœsa are perfect. The infra spinous fœsa wants a portion of its posterior border. The length from the glenoid cavity to the posterior inferior angle is six inches and a half.

The humerus. The head and laccipital groove are perfect, the shaft is broken into several fragments; the inferior articular surface and fossa for olecranon and coronoid processes are perfect. Its probable length was nine inches, and the diameter of his head two inches.

The ulna is perfect—nine inches long. Its olecranon process being one inch in length. The coronoid process is very slightly marked; its shaft is very slender, barely measuring a quarter of an inch at its smallest portion.

The radius is flattened transversely and slightly arched; its length is eight inches, and its upper and lower end are distinctly separated from the shaft of the bone as epiphyses; thus offering an indication that the animal had not reached that adult age when the epiphyses (originally centres of ossification) are consolidated with the shaft of the long bones.

Of the carpus, there are only two irregular

fragments, with one or two pieces somewhat resembling sesauroid bones.

Of the metacarpal bones, there are two nearly perfect, three inches and a half long, with some irregular fragments, appearing like portions of another metacarpal bone, mixed with phalangeal fragments. The *palaeotherium* of Cuvier is marked from the *anoplotherium*, by the presence of three metacarpal bones in each extremity.

Of the pelvis, there is only the ilium and a portion of the ischium, the acetabulum being entirely wanting; the length of the piece is four inches and a half.

The posterior extremity. Of the femur. The head is wanting, and the shaft is shattered to fragments. The condyles are perfect, and measure one inch and three quarters transversely. There is a groove anteriorly for the tendon of the patella, and a pit inferiorly for the crucial ligament.

Of the tibia. The head is separated as a distinct epiphysis, its transverse diameter is one inch and three quarters. There is an irregular fragment of the shaft about an inch long beneath the epiphysis; the rest is wanting, except three or four inches, which are attached to the inferior articular surface. This is marked by a transverse groove anteriorly for the astragalus, and an inclined surface posteriorly.

The patella is a curved elongated bone, about an inch and a half long.

The fibula is entirely wanting.

Of the tarsus, there is only one distinct bone, the fragment lying by it being probably a portion of some larger bone.

Of the metacarpal bones, two are nearly perfect, measuring four inches in length. There are also fragments of other small cylindrical bones with one perfect phalanx.

The bones described all appear to belong to the same side. The head of the tibia is the only portion of the opposite side that was found.

The shaft of another cylindrical bone, measuring seven inches and a half, in length, was taken from the same spot, but it appears not to have been a portion of the same animal.

From the dimensions of the bones of the extremities, it is probable that the height of the animal, from the arch of the back to the ground, might have been something less than three feet.⁷

The fish accompanying these bones appear to have suffered very little, if any, violence, scarcely a scale being disarranged.

At no other spot along the coast have I been able to find formations similar to that in which these bones were found; and from the vast quantities of chalk-flints deposited near it in an uninjured state, and the great masses of chalk occurring here in the till, the probability is that it may rest imme-

⁷ It was probably distinct from the genus *palæotherium*, but a *pachyderm*, and nearly allied to that genus.

diately upon the chalk, and belong to the cocene period of the tertiary strata.

The skeleton of the Saurian, given in the annexed plate, was found in this same deposit.

About 200 yards from the forest peat at Bacton the second lacustrine bed occurs.⁸ It is confined to occasional patches about the middle of the cliff, near the Watch house gap. The shells are deposited in thin layers of sand and blue clay, containing much wood, which appears as if bored by some insect.

The following shells I have been able to extract in a pretty perfect state.

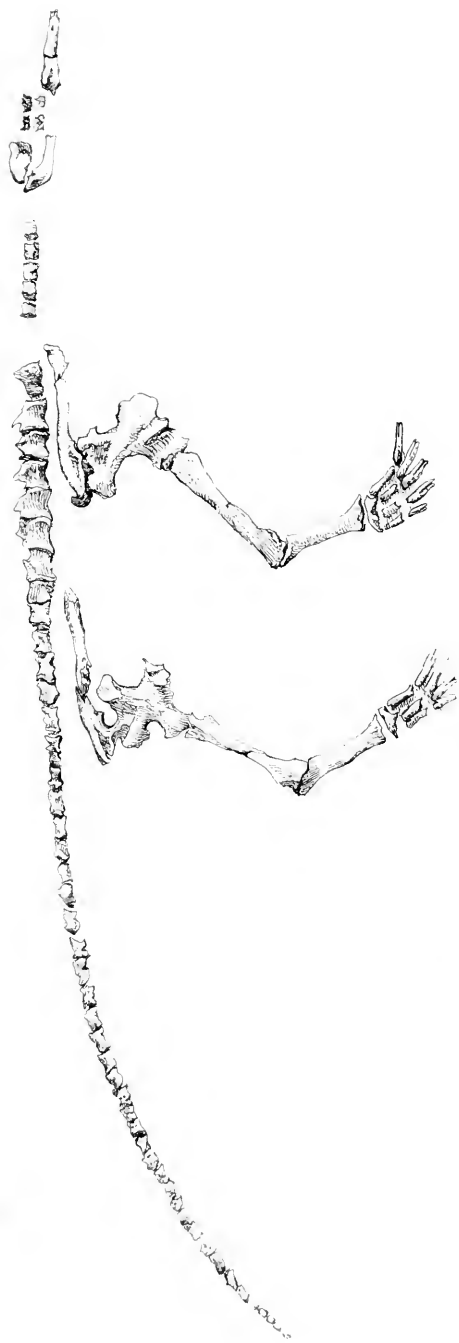
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Limnea palustris</i> | 6. <i>Paludina</i> |
| 2. <i>Bulimus</i> | 7. <i>Planorbis vortex</i> |
| 3. <i>Planorbis</i> | 8. <i>Cypris</i> |
| 4. <i>Cyclas</i> | 9. <i>Succinea intermedia</i> |
| 5. <i>Valvata</i> | |

Fir cones are met with in this bed, but in a very decayed state.

The following is the section of the cliff from the beach upwards :

- | | | |
|--|-----------|--------|
| 1. Red gravel, containing bones of
elephants, &c. | | 3 feet |
| 2. White sand | | 3 feet |
| 3. Brown clay | | 4 feet |
| 4. Blue clay and sand with patches of
shells | | 7 feet |
| 5. Brown clay | | 5 feet |

⁸ Section 3, (c.)



The whole height of the cliff is about twenty-three feet.

I have not yet been able to detect any bones, or scales of fish, nor elytras of beetles in this bed.

The third and last lacustrine formation is at the village of Mundesley, and is distinguished from the other cliffs by its dark muddy appearance. Its height is about twenty feet, and it extends one hundred yards along the beach.

Mr. Lyell, referring to this bed, says: "It consists of brown, black, and grey sand, and loam, mixed with vegetable matter, sometimes almost passing into a kind of peaty earth, containing much pyrites." It abounds with shells, elytras of beetles, also scales and bones of fish.

The shells are,

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Paludina impura</i> | 10. <i>Planorbis leovis</i> |
| 2. — <i>minuta</i> | 11. — <i>nitidus</i> |
| 3. — <i>Orbicularis</i> | 12. <i>Cyclas pusilla</i> |
| 4. <i>Valvata cristata</i> | 13. — <i>Cornea</i> |
| 5. — <i>piscinalis</i> | 14. <i>Ancylus lacustris</i> |
| 6. <i>Limnea palustris</i> | 15. <i>Cypris</i> |
| 7. — <i>glutinosa</i> | 16. <i>Anodon anatinus</i> |
| 8. <i>Planorbis albus</i> | 17. — <i>Cygneus</i> |
| 9. — <i>Vortex</i> | |

These shells all belong to living freshwater species.

The elytras of beetles are very common, some of which belong to two species of *Donacia*, a tribe which inhabit marshy grounds, and are the same

as those found in the Lignite at Bacton. Others belong to the Elator, Harpalidæ, (*H. Ophomis*, or *H. Argutor*) and *Copris lunaris*.

The scales and remains of fish are distinct from living species, with the exception of those recognized as belonging to a perch.

From a paper sent me by Mr. Lyell, I extract the following, relative to these remains, which were seen by M. Agassiz during his late visit to England, from whose examination of them it was apparent that they belonged to species not identical with any European freshwater fishes hitherto described, but they nevertheless belong to an ichthyological fauna more modern and more nearly resembling the recent than any other with which M. Agassiz is acquainted in a fossil state. It is a question, therefore, whether these unknown fishes may not still inhabit the rivers and lakes of the more northern parts of Europe or America, especially as M. Agassiz is at present unacquainted with the freshwater fishes of Norway, Sweden, Spitzbergen, Iceland, Greenland, Labrador, and Canada, and even the northernmost parts of Scotland and the Shetland Isles. •

The mammalian remains which have been found here, are the bones and horns of the Irish elk, *Cervus giganteus*, and the head of the wild boar.

Of the vegetable remains the most common and best preserved are the seed vessels of *Ceretophyllum demersum*.

LIGNITE.

This name has been given to extensive forest beds containing much carbonized wood.

The deposit prevails very generally along the Norfolk coast, and may be instructively examined at Happisburgh, Bacton, Mundesley, Trimmingham, and Cromer.

At Bacton, extensive sections are laid bare after high tides. They are mostly formed of black peaty earth, which may be separated into thin layers, and has generally an aluminous taste, and abounds with pyrites.

At Bacton the depth of these sections, from the top of the cliff, is about five feet, at Ostend, between Bacton and Happisburgh, about thirty, and at Mundesley one hundred feet.

These deposits are occasionally mixed with masses of red sand, containing pipes of hard clay.

This formation presents every appearance of a wood having been overthrown and crushed *in situ*, for after strong north-west winds, the stumps of trees may be seen really standing, with the roots strong, spread abroad, and intermingling with each other. In the winter of 1840-41, I measured some of these trunks, which were then exposed about a foot from the root. One measured five feet eleven inches round, and another five feet.

At Ostend some of these trunks are several yards round, and are thrown down indiscriminately in the strata. Some measure as much as nine or ten feet in length. Branches, leaves, crushed grass, fir cones, and numerous seed vessels occur. Those of the oak and fir are distinguishable.

In some parts, as at Bacton, elytras of beetles, with mammalian remains, occur. The principal elytras are of the tribe *Donacia*. When first removed from the earth they are very brilliant, but the colours soon fade upon exposure to the air.

The mammalian remains include bones and teeth of the

Deer

Ox and

Horse

Arvicola.

Whilst, at Bacton, this bed is formed of black peaty earth, at Ostend it is mixed with a greenish sand. Mr. Lyell speaks of that at Happisburgh as “laminated blue clay, about one foot and a half in thickness, part of the clay being bituminous, and inclosing compressed branches and leaves of trees.”

Mr. R. C. Taylor, in his *Geology of Eastern Norfolk*, observes of the deposit generally:—“It consists of forest peat, containing fir cones and fragments of bones; in others, of woody clay; and elsewhere, of large stools of trees, standing thickly together, the stems appearing to have been broken off about eighteen inches from the base. They are evidently rooted in the clay, or sandy bed, in which they originally grew, and their stems, branches,

and leaves, lie around them, flattened by the pressure of from thirty to three hundred feet of diluvial deposits. It is not possible to say how far inland this subterranean forest extends; but that it is not a mere external belt is obvious, from the constant exposure and removal of new portions at the base of the cliffs.

The Rev. James Layton, cited by Mr. Fairholme in his *Geology*, states in a letter, "the line of crushed wood, leaves, grass, &c. frequently forming a bed of peat, extends just above low water mark. About this stratum, numerous remains of mammalia are found, the horns and bones of at least four kinds of deer, the ox, the horse, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, and elephant. These fossil remains are found at Happisburgh, and its neighbourhood, on the denuded clay shore: at Mundesley they are found in the cliff."

This forest appears to extend far inland, for I have been credibly informed, that when the river Ant (North Walsham canal) was cut, a bed of peat was met with, precisely the same as that before described, containing fir cones and nuts, with bones of the deer and other animals.

A section of the same kind of strata may be seen at that part of the river which passes Mr. Partridge's mill, on the North Walsham road, and is distinguished by its black colour, and by its containing wood, seed vessels, leaves and grass.

This stratum may be seen as the underlying formation along the whole line of beach from Happisburgh to Mundesley.

Mr. Lyell mentions this forest bed as having been seen also at Sidestrand, about a mile and a half north-west of Trimmingham, where the cliff, composed of drift, is one hundred and twenty feet high. It consists of beds of laminated blue clay and sand, six or seven feet thick, in which are some stumps of trees three feet in diameter, broken off to within a few inches of the roots, which spread for a distance of several feet on all sides. At one point near the bottom of this cliff, a stratum of clay has been seen, in which freshwater shells, of the genus *Unio*, abound, apparently *Unio ovalis*.

At Cromer Mr. Simons has observed beneath the drift, several feet below high water mark, a bed of lignite, in which were found the seeds of plants, and the wing case of a beetle. This lignite contains coniferous wood and cones of the *Pinus abies*, or spruce fir, a northern species not indigenous to Britain.

Mr. Simons also saw at Cromer ten or more trees, in the space of half an acre, exposed below the cliffs eastward of that town, the stumps being a few inches, or all less than a foot, in vertical height, some of them no less than nine or ten feet in girth, the roots spreading from them on all sides throughout a space twenty feet in diameter.

Mr. Richard Taylor believes this bed, as visible at Happisburgh, to be an extension of the well-known stratum at Watton cliff, and Harwich. "There is," he says, "evidence sufficient to prove that it extends more south than Palling, even as low down as Winterton, and Caister, also at Lowestoft."

The last two strata nearest the chalk are the

BLUE CLAY AND RED GRAVEL.

These two beds seem to have been deposited contemporaneously, as they are much intermixed, and everywhere contain the same species of mammalian remains. From the unusual quantity of bones contained in these strata, they have been provincially termed the Bone Rocks, but from the immense quantity of elephants' bones annually exhumed, they may, for the sake of distinction, be denominated the Elephant Beds.

The blue clay, in some places, is regularly deposited upon the red gravel.

The red gravel is composed of rolled materials, which no doubt have been brought to this place from some distance. It comprehends a mixture of red sand and gravel, ferruginous and ochraceous nodules, blue clay, peat, sulphur, loam, flints, pebbles, masses of granite, porphyry, fragments of, and whole bones, and is much mineralized by iron.

Mr. R. Taylor describes it "as varying in appearance from a red ferruginous sand to an ochraceous coarse gravel, cemented by iron, and often divided into septa by a coarse ferruginous kind of crystallization, accompanied by thin flattened and circular cakes of very hard argillaceous red coloured stone."

This formation varies from one and a half to two feet in thickness, and has been traced to some distance out, beneath the sea, off Happisburgh, by the teeth and bones which have from time to time been brought up while dredging for oysters. This oyster bed was discovered in the year 1820, and during the first twelve months many hundreds of the molar teeth of elephants were found here and destroyed by the fishermen.

The Rev. James Layton states that he had seventy grinders in his possession, also a fine tusk of the *Elephas primigenus*, the finest this country has yet produced, which was dredged up in 1826, from this spot. It measured nine feet six inches along its curvature, and weighed ninety-seven pounds. This great mine, however, has for some years been closed up, by a large bank of sand formed by the sea.

These rocks are traceable to a considerable distance beyond Cromer.

The following mammalian remains have been found in them.

RUMINATA.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <i>Bos taurus</i> | 5. <i>Cervus dama</i> |
| 2. — <i>urus</i> | 6. — <i>elephas</i> |
| 3. <i>Cervus giganteus</i> | 7. <i>Anthracotherium</i> |
| 4. — <i>alces</i> | |

RODENTIA.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 8. <i>Castor fiber</i> | 9. <i>Arvicola</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------|

PACHYDERMATA.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11. <i>Sus</i> | 16. <i>Rhinoceros leptorhi-</i> |
| 12. <i>Aper</i> | mus |
| 13. <i>Equus caballus</i> | 17. <i>Elephas primogenus</i> |
| 14. <i>Mastodon</i> | 18. — <i>asiaticus</i> |
| 15. <i>Hippopotamus</i> | 19. — <i>africanus</i> |

Great quantities of the bones of these animals are annually destroyed by the action of the waves of the sea, and by the carelessness with which they are extracted by individuals eager to obtain specimens.

In a section of this stratum, west of the coal gap, was found in the year 1836, an enormous humerus, probably of the Great Mastodon, after a very high tide. This magnificent bone is now in the possession of Miss Anna Gurney, of North-repps Cottage, near Cromer. To the kindness of

this lady I am indebted for the measurement and mention of it in the present work.

This bone measures in length . . . 4 ft. 4 in.

Its dimensions round the left end are 3 ft. 0 in.

Right end 3 ft. 3 in.

Middle 2 ft. 3 in.

It is in a remarkable state of preservation.

In the month of February, 1841, the portion of a tibia, belonging, probably, to the same animal, was also found, and is in Miss Gurney's possession. About the same time a tooth was extracted from the same layer, which, from the description given me, I suppose to have belonged to this animal.

In the red gravel I met with seed vessels, and elytras of beetles, but in a very imperfect state; also fir cones and fruit. The fir cones differ somewhat from those found in the lignite.

At Mundesley, large roots and stools of trees, standing erect, with others thrown down, occasionally present themselves in this stratum.

In concluding this geological sketch of the neighbourhood of Bacton, a few remarks upon the probable changes which the cliffs have undergone, and of which the appearances they at present offer may be taken as indications, may not prove unacceptable to my readers.

Various writers on the geology of Norfolk have attempted to account for those appearances of mighty changes and evidences of derangement which are everywhere visible in its strata; but still

no correct theory appears to have been established. Recent investigations overthrow the past, and that which seemed to be "goal to-day, is starting post to-morrow."

Mr. Woodward's opinion is that the chalk, which has been traced as the substratum of nearly all Europe, emerging from the waters of the ocean, became inhabited by herds of elephants, together with the mastodon, and other tenants of the forest; during this period an estuary existed a sufficient period to silt up its bed to the level of the adjacent country, and that its residuum may be seen in the brick earth of the crag district, and to a considerable extent on each side of the same. That the changes effected by the deluge, were the disruption of the then surface, and the filling up and levelling its inequalities by the detritus; by which catastrophe the eastern side of the country was covered with a large quantity of the wreck of the lias, and the western with a similar portion of the oolite series. That at a subsequent period, and prior to the separation of this country from the continent, there existed large lakes in different parts of that which is now the county of Norfolk, and probably in that part occupied by the German ocean, lying between Norfolk and Holland. These were surrounded by extensive forests; these forests were inhabited by herds of deer, oxen, &c. The chalk was subsequently disrupted, separating this country from the

continent, at the same time forming the valleys of eastern Norfolk and the drainage of the country. These valleys were afterwards occupied by the waters of the ocean; and lastly, that the waters retreated from these valleys about the time of the Norman conquest, leaving the country as it now appears.

Mr. R. Taylor, in the *Philosophical Magazine* for April, 1827, supposes that these accumulations, with all their imbedded bones, took place before the dispersion of the diluvial detritus.

Mr. Lyell makes the following remarks: "It is evident that the entire formation of the mud cliffs, whether freshwater or drift, belong to the latest part of the tertiary period, the only doubt being whether it should not rather be considered as post tertiary, or referrible to a class of deposits which contain exclusively shells of recent species."

Speaking of the perplexing state of the strata, that gentleman continues: "In no other part of our island, or perhaps in Europe, are there evidences of local disturbances on so great a scale, and of an equally modern date." The age of the crag agrees with that of Norwich in the species of marine shells, &c., which it contains. The freshwater deposits agree very nearly in age with those of Sutton in Suffolk, Grays in Essex, Cropthorn in Worcester-shire, and others; which contain nearly the same species, with fossil bones of extinct quadrupeds.

The drift is proved to be newer than the Norwich crag and some of the freshwater beds. The section at Mundesley seems to prove, that in some places the deposition of the drift was going on contemporaneously with the accumulation of the freshwater beds. The fluvio-marine contents of the Norwich crag, imply the former existence of an estuary on the present site of Norfolk and Suffolk, including the eastern coast of Norfolk. Into this estuary, or bay, one or many rivers entered, and in the strata then formed, were imbedded the remains of animals and shells of the land, river, and sea. Certain parts of this area seem at length to have been changed from sea into low marshy land, either because the sea was filled up with sediment, or because its bottom was upheaved, or by the influence of both these causes. Two consequences followed. 1st. Trees grew on some places gained from the sea. 2ndly. In other spots freshwater deposits were found in ponds, or lakes, and in the channels of sluggish rivers, or grounds occasionally overflowed by streams. Next succeeded a period of gradual subsidence, by which some of the lands supporting the forests were submerged, the trees broken down, and their roots and stumps buried under new strata. At the same time the freshwater beds, whether resting on crag or immediately on chalk, became covered with drift, except in certain places, such as Mundesley, where, for a small space, the accumulation of drift seems to have

been entirely prevented, perhaps by a continued flow of a small body of fresh water.

The gradually stratified arrangement of a large part of the drift, and the different materials of the alternating strata, clearly demonstrate that it was formed gradually, and not by any single or sudden flood. The boulders it contains seem to imply, that while a great proportion of the mass may have been derived from neighbouring regions, part at least has come from a great distance.

Similar formations occur in Cambridgeshire, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, Holstein, &c. "It may be said," says Mr. Lyell, "to extend uninterruptedly from Sweden, through the Danish islands, Holstein, and the countries, of Hamburgh, Bremen, and Osnabruck, to the borders of Holland, and then to appear again with the same characters in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Throughout this track, however, the average number and dimensions of the included erratic blocks, especially those of granite, porphyry, gneiss, and other crystalline rocks, diminish sensibly on proceeding from north to south.

"Coast ice," continues Mr. Lyell, "and icebergs have been instrumental in transporting much of the large and small detritus in Scandinavia, at the same period the effects of the same agency was extended to the British seas, although on a smaller scale."

Mr. Lyell further supposes these formations to have been brought into their present contorted and dislocated position by three kinds of mechanical movement.

1. By ordinary subterranean movement, a general subsidence took place over a considerable area. Upon this supposition is explained the submergence and burial of the trees, the stools of which are found *in situ*; and this forest bed could not have been brought up again, together with the incumbent drift, to the level of low water, without a subsequent upheaval nearly equal in amount to the present subsidence. But such a depression and re-elevation of a large tract may have taken place slowly and insensibly, and without any derangement of the stratification. A question would still remain, whether such protuberances of chalk as those at Trimmingham, and the inclination or verticality of the associated drift should be attributed to a local and violent movement from below, fracturing the chalk, and thrusting up portions of it above the ordinary level of that formation.

2. By landslips and slides. We may imagine that banks of sand and mud existed beneath the sea, in which channels were occasionally excavated by currents. If the cliffs of loam or sand bounding this new channel give way, large masses may descend bodily, and assume a vertical or curved position. They may easily escape subsequent denudation, because the direction of the currents is

constantly shifting. Thus strata which have assumed a vertical position, may be forced laterally against the opposite sides of the channels, where the beds have remained horizontal. Both the juxtaposition of vertical and horizontal beds, and the super-position of disturbed to undisturbed strata, may be caused in this manner.

3. By pressure of drift ice. "So many facts," says Mr. Lyell, "have come to my knowledge, of the manner in which masses of ice, even of moderate size, in the Baltic, and still more in the gulf of St. Lawrence, push before them large heaps of boulders, that I can scarcely doubt that lateral pressure, exerted under favourable circumstances, by drift ice on banks of stratified and incoherent sand, gravel, and mud, is an adequate cause for producing considerable flexure and dislocation. The banks on which icebergs occasionally run aground, between Baffin's Bay and Newfoundland, are many hundred feet under water, and the force with which they are struck will depend not so much on the velocity, as the momentum of the large floating islands. The same berg is often carried away by a change of wind, and then driven back again upon the same bank, or in other cases it is made to rise and fall by the waves of the ocean, and may thus alternately strike the bottom with its whole weight, and then be lifted up again until it has deranged the superficial beds over a wide area. On these beds new and undisturbed strata may afterwards be thrown down."

The geologist, roused from the sleep of indifference by these indications of mighty convulsions which have shaken the earth's surface long ages before he had commenced to be, sees with astonishment a mass of hard enduring chalk, where once the ocean rolled its living waves, affording happiness to countless myriads of sentient creatures; a desolating flood covers its surface, presenting an immense Golgotha of mammalian remains; upon the subsiding of its waters, forest trees grow and animals of various kinds sport in vast numbers beneath their luxuriant shades; in this forest lakes abound, and many rivers pour their waters down to give life and beauty to the scene. Again, by the agency of some mighty stream, these animals are deprived of existence, and their pleasures overwhelmed in death. Over this, at various places, once more rolls the great deep; again it retires, leaving as a record of its existence multitudes of its former occupants contained in its debris; then by the action of some volcanic or other subterranean force, these strata are variously bent and folded; here thrown in a slanting position; there resting perpendicularly; then presenting various grooves, and now dipping deeply and lost altogether from the eye. Upon the surface of the whole are brought extensive masses from the various rocks forming the earth's crust; showing that all have contributed to throw a veil of mystery over these great catastrophes, so perplexing to the mind of man, but

clear to the mind of that Great Being who exists as the very essence of intelligence itself.

And when, with feelings thus suggested, and without any other aid than the simple observation of what he sees, conjoined to calm reflection upon what he has read and heard, his mind dwells upon special facts, such as have been now presented in this little work, although he may feel that he wants depth of generalization and extent of research, to enable him to mature anything like a perfect scheme, still theory will rise before him and endeavour to lead him from results to their cause. Such being the nature of things, I may perhaps be allowed, without attaching to them any undue weight, to throw out the following suggestions, in the hope that some trifling portions of them may be yet found to annex themselves in the future to the results of more matured observation.

1st. The chalk having been caused by some centrifugal force to emerge from the ocean, was swept by an extensive land flood, bringing with it from a distance the pebbles, flints, blue clay, gravel, and bones, which form the Elephant Bed.

2ndly. The flood having disappeared, the beds which it had deposited became the pabulum of vegetable life, and at last forest trees grew, some portions still remaining as swampy spots, into which running waters drained, so that here and there lakes were formed. In these, and in the streams, the fish and shells found a home, whose

remains are now so abundant in the freshwater formations, and into them were also swept at times the deer and oxen of the forest.

3rdly. By a sudden subsidence, the forest was partially overthrown and entirely submerged beneath the waters of the ocean.

4thly. While thus beneath the water, by some uncertain mode of transport, the till, partially derived from a distance, and partially from the neighbouring formations, was deposited upon it, filling up some of the rivers and lakes, and leaving others from some uncertain causes unoccupied.

5thly. The cliffs were then elevated by subterranean agency, being stamped by the action of landslips, and by other means, with those disruptions, contortions, furrows, and foldings, which are now so clearly exhibited in their stratification.

The following are facts, bearing some relation to these views. The mammalian remains found in the red gravel and blue clay, are most of them rolled and broken, appearing to have been transported from some distant locality. No perfect group of bones, belonging to one animal, has been yet found in the stratum. The rock is generally composed of water-worn materials. Many of the organic remains must have belonged to animals inhabiting tropical climates, and no tropical seeds or fruits have been discovered with them. The bones are accompanied by vertebræ and remains of fish. One vertebra is of immense size, and may

have belonged to a whale. In the red gravel I found a spatangus, and a small species of gryphea.

The teeth and jaws of the arvicola, and seed vessels, fir cones, and fruit, appear to have been washed from the forest beds, like those at Bacton, into the hard ferruginous crag. The author has also found in the crag the scale of a fish which bears a strong resemblance to the scales of the perch, occurring in the freshwater formations of Mundesley and Ostend. The probable inference, therefore, is, that the lignite and freshwater formations are the productions of an earlier period than crag.

A P P E N D I X.

A.

HISTORY OF CLUNIAK MONKS.

St. Bernon of the family of the Earls of Burgundy and Abbot of Gigni, seeing that the progress of corruption was reducing the level of monastic sanctity, to save the reputation of the system, founded this order, which, although of the stock of St. Benedict, from their observing a different discipline, claimed a specific distinction.

In the year 910 he built a monastery for the reception of Benedictine monks, in the town of Clugni, situated in the Massonnois, a little province of France on the river Garonne.

This monastery, by the conditions of its erection, was put under the immediate protection of the holy see, with a prohibition to all powers, both secular and ecclesiastical, to disturb the monks in the possession of their effects, or in the election of their abbots. In virtue hereof they pleaded an exemption from the jurisdiction of the bishop, and extended this privilege to all the houses dependent on Cluny. This made the first congregation of several houses under one chief immediately subject to the pope, so as to constitute one body, or, as it is now called, one religious order. Till then each monastery was independent and subject to the bishop.

Amongst those who also may be termed the fathers and improvers of its discipline Father Mabillon mentions St. Odo, St. Mayeul, St. Odillo, and St. Hugh; but to St. Odo principally is referred the advancement and progress of the order.

Bernon began and governed it for several years, and St. Odo, in the eleventh century, perfected and increased it.

The monks of Clugni, or Cluni, were remarkable for their sanctity and discipline, which soon spread its fame in all parts, and very soon new monasteries were built for their reception in France, Germany, Spain, England, and Italy. They also passed into the east, and there was scarcely a place in Europe where their order was not known.

They were strict in their imitation of ancient excellence, rigid in their profession of poverty, industry, and piety. They every day sung two solemn masses, at which a monk of one of the choirs offered two hosts, though only five communicated on Sunday; or but three on ferias or common days. The other did, before dinner, and by way of thanksgiving, receive the host which had not been consecrated, but only blessed. But at the solemn masses for the dead, and on the three rogation days, both choirs offered the hosts. On solemn festivals the deacon communicated of the host of the priest that said mass, and the subdeacon of the others; but on the three days before Easter all the monks received the communion. If any one would celebrate mass on Holy Thursday, before the solemn mass was sung, he made no use of light, because the new fire was not yet blessed.

In their regular exercises they so strictly observed silence, as well by day as by night, that they would rather have died than break it before the hour of prime. During the hours of silence they made use of signs instead of

words. After the 13th of November the elders staid in the choir when matins were ended, and the young ones went to the chapter-house to learn to sing.

When they were at work they recited the psalms. The public declaring of their faults was in use amongst them. After complin they received no gifts, nor were the monks ever permitted to eat any thing after that time. Ulclarie gives us an instance in the person of a cellerer, who, though he had been employed the whole day in receiving the wine that was laid in for their store, yet could not obtain to eat after complin.

After the 13th of September they had but one meal allowed, except on festivals of twelve lessons, and within the octaves of Christmas and the Epiphany, when they had two. The remains of the bread and wine that were served in the refectory were distributed among poor travellers. Besides this, one year at the beginning of lent, they distributed salt meat and other alms among 7000 poor.

The preparation they used for making the bread which was to serve for the sacrifice of the altar, is worthy to be observed. They first chose the wheat grain by grain, and washed it very carefully, and being put into a bag appointed only for that use, a servant, known to be a just man, carried it in the bag to the mill, washed the grind stones, and covered them with curtains above and below; and having put on himself an alb covered his face with a veil, nothing but his eyes appearing. The same precaution was used with the meal; it was not boulded till it had been well washed, and the warden of the church, if he were either priest or deacon, finished the rest, being assisted by two other religious men, who were in the same orders, and by a lay brother particularly appointed for that business. Those four monks, when matins were ended, washed their faces and hands. The first three of them put on

albs, one of them washed the meal with clean water, and the other two baked the host in the iron moulds; so great was the veneration and respect the monks of Cluny paid to the Holy Eucharist.

Such was the point of honourable reputation in which the order of Cluni, during the time of its prosperity, was held, that, in the eleventh century, a bishop of Ostia, (the future Urban II,) being officially present at a council in Germany, suppressed in his signature his episcopal dignity, and thought that he adopted a prouder title when he subscribed himself Monk of Cluny and Legate of Pope Gregory.

This institution was also much praised for its zealous and active orthodoxy, and its devotion to the throne of St. Peter; hence it flourished far and wide in power and opulence, and numbered, in the following age, above 2000 monasteries which followed its appointed rules and adopted principles.

These religious men lived under the rule of St. Benedict, and wore a black habit.

The monastery of Cluni realized a reflected splendour, from the fact, that Hildebrand within its walls fed his youthful spirit on those dreams of universal dominion which he afterwards attempted to realize; it was there too that he may have meditated those vast crusading projects which were accomplished by Urban, his disciple. This order was also raised much by the books of dialogues written by Gregory the Great.

In this order was also trained Peter, abbot of Cluny, surnamed the Venerable, who takes great pains to vindicate the manners and customs of his monastery against objections, but whose writings seem to indicate, that the essence of christianity is placed more in frivolous punctilios and insignificant ceremonies. This is he who received Peter

Abelard in his afflictions with great humanity, and who consoled Eloisa after his death by sending her, at her request, the form of Abelard's absolution which that unhappy woman inscribed on his tomb.

The principal monasteries in which the discipline and rules of Cluni were observed, were those of Tulles in the Limousin, Aurillac in Auvergne, Bourgdien and Massay in Beni, St. Benet on the Loire in the Orleonis, St. Peter le Vil at Lens, St. Allire of Clermont, St. Julian of Tours, Sarlat in Pengon, and Roman Mourier in the country of Vaux. This order was divided into ten parts; viz. Dauphine, Auvergne, Poitiers, Santonge and Gascony in France, Spain, Italy, Lombardy, Germany, and England.

All the monasteries of this order in England were governed by foreigners, had more French than English monks in them, and were not only subject to the foreign houses of Cluni, La Charite, Sin Loire, and St. Martin des Champs at Paris, but could be visited by them only. None of their priors were elected by the respective convents, but named by the above mentioned foreign house. They could not receive the profession of novices in England, nor could so much as any of their differences be determined here; but they were obliged in almost all cases to go to their superiors beyond sea, by which means the greatest part of their revenues were carried to those foreign houses, and upon that account, during the wars with France, the different establishments of this order were generally seized into the king's hands as alien priories. But after the petition to parliament at Winchester 4 Ed. III, these inconveniences were by degrees removed: some of their houses were in that and the following reign made denizen. Bermondsey was made an abbey; and all of them at last discharged from all manner of subjection and obedience to the foreign abbeys: "but perhaps," says

Tanner, "not till 36th Hen. VI, or A.D. 1457," when three monks were sent from Cluni to desire restitution of those possessions which had long been detained from them, with leave to enter all places depending upon their houses: but instead of obtaining what they desired, they were deprived of the subjection of all houses of their order in England.

Stevens dates the cutting off of these monasteries from their obedience to the abbot of Cluni, as early as Henry V, in consequence of the wars between the kings of France and England: "Whereupon some of them," he says, "as Lenton and Daventry, took out new foundation charters and united themselves to the chapter and congregation of the Black monks; others, however," he adds, "remained under the title and discipline of the order of Cluni, but not under their subjection; and all the priors subscribed by the title of the Cluniac order to the deeds of their surrender."

The houses of Cluni had pensions from the houses of their order in England, called apportions, which probably amounted in the whole to a large sum. For Cotton, in his abridgment, p. 51, says, "The abbot of Cluni had a pension from England of £2000 per annum;" and according to Rymer, old edit. vol. 3, p. 1009, and Prynne's Records, vol. 3, pp. 358—386, the foreigners sometimes demanded occasional supplies from their houses here; and even ran them into debt.

Tanner says, there were twenty-seven priories and cells of this order in England. But the monks who were deputed to King Henry VI in 1457, complained that they had been deprived of the obedience of thirty-eight. Dugdale, in his *Monasticon Anglicanum*, however, gives an account of forty-two, exclusive of three cells, whose existence is not very distinctly described. These were Hitcham

in Norfolk, Bablew in Somersetshire, and Manton in Rutlandshire. Stow mentions a hospital in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn; another in the street without Aldersgate; and another near Cripplegate: cells to the house of Cluni in Florence, which were suppressed 3 Hen. V, among the priories alien. Tanner says: "If there were such, probably they were founded before the reign of King Edward III, whose seizure of all estates belonging to the French abbeys discouraged all foundations of that kind.

The greater part of the houses of the Cluniac order were founded prior to the reign of Henry II. Slevesholm in Norfolk was the last founded, about A.D. 1222.

Yet is there a sorrowful reflection which attends the spectacle of this prosperity. Through all the parade of wealth and dignity, we penetrate the melancholy truth, that the season of monastic virtue and utility was passing by, if indeed it was not already passed irrevocably; and rapidly the close embrace of the pontifical powers was converting to evil the rational principles and pious purposes of the original institution.

This order declined according to the course of human institutions, through wealth, into indolence and luxury. In the space of about two centuries it fell into obscurity. Besides the riches which had rewarded and spoiled its original purity another cause is mentioned as having contributed to its decline,—the corruption of the simple rule of St. Benedict, by the multiplication of vocal prayers, and the substitution of new offerings and ceremonies for the manual labour of former days. The ill effect of this change was admitted by the venerable abbot in his answer to St. Bernard.

Howbeit no flagrant immoralities had yet disgraced the establishment of Cluni; only it had attained a degree of sumptuous refinement very far removed from its first

profession. This degeneracy furnished a reason for the creation of a new and rival community in its neighbourhood, who adopted the title of the Cistercian order.

The introduction of the Cluniac monks into England, in the year 1077, arose from the following circumstance. William de Warren, the first Earl Warren, Earl of Moreton and Surry, and son-in-law to William the Conqueror, who came into England with him, being on a pilgrimage to St. Peter's at Rome with his countess the Lady Gundreda, in their passage through France and Burgundy visited many of the monasteries to make their orisons; but understanding in Burgundy that they could not in safety proceed with their purpose, on account of the war which was then carrying on between the pope and the emperor, they took up their abode in the great monastery of St. Peter at Cluni in that country, and there paid their devotions to the saint. The appearances of sanctity, religion, and charity which they met with in that abbey were great beyond their expectation; and these together with the special respect shown to them by the prior, in the abbot's absence, and the whole convent, who admitted them to their fraternity, charmed them, and raised their esteem both for the order and house of Cluni above all others. And having long before determined (by the advice of Lafranc, Archbishop of Canterbury,) to found some religious house to make atonement for their sins, and for the welfare of their souls, came to a resolution to found it for the order of Clunial monks. Accordingly they soon after sent over their request to Hugh abbot and the convent of Cluni, that they would favour them with two, three, or four monks out of their flock: and the intention was to give them the church of St. Pancras, and to endow it with lands and possessions for the support of twelve Clunial monks, and to confirm the same to them by

charter. The abbot at first made great difficulty in the affair, and seemed unwilling to comply, as the proposed place of abode for his monks was to be a long way off in another land, and especially as the sea would be between them and the parent convent; but understanding at length that the earl had obtained licence from King William to introduce monks of their order into England, and having himself applied to the king on that behalf, and being satisfied of his approbation thereof, he became reconciled to the proposal, and agreed to send them four monks of his convent, one Lanzo being chief. Whereupon the earl did immediately by his charter grant and confirm what he had before so designed and promised; and remitted the deed to the abbot and convent of Cluni. For the abbot and convent of Cluni would by no means send over the monks till they had in their hands a sure confirmation, both from the earl and the king, of the possessions they were to be endowed with on their arrival. Not long after, so great was his devotion and attachment to this order, that he annexed the church of Castle Acre, and manor given him by the Conqueror, with two carucates of land, to the monks of St. Pancras, and determined on founding another monastery at Castle Acre, which should be subordinate to that at Lewes. This he accomplished accordingly, and dedicated it to God, St. Mary, and the holy apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, giving the monks the name of the Clunial monks of St. Pancras at Lewes, serving God at Acre. Herbert, Bishop of Norwich, constituted the church and monastery here, and placed therein Clunial monks, under the rule of St. Benedict.

B.

Dugdale says, "Bishop Tanner, in his *Baronage*, vol. i, p. 423, makes Broomholme and Baketon distinct priories, which they certainly were not; but it is not clear" he adds, "whether William de Glanville did not settle the Castle Acre monks in Baketon town, and his son Bartholomew removed them to the extremity of the parish, or rather into the then neighbouring parish, and now united parishes of Keswick, to the place called Broomholme, where they continued till the Dissolution."

These opinions, however, cannot be supported; for, in the first place, William de Glanville is beyond dispute the reputed founder of Broomholme, which could not have been the case if the monks were removed from Baketon town by his son Bartholomew.

Secondly. The said William de Glanville is stated as lying buried at Broomholme, so that the priory must have been built during his life time, and there is therefore the greatest probability that William de Glanville, and not his son Bartholomew, was the individual who placed the Clunical monks at Broomholme.

Speed and Weever mention two priories at Broomholme, but Taylor, in his "*Index Monasticus*," states that they confound Broomholme with that of Broomhill in Weeting. Nor is there the slightest reason which would lead to the belief that such an assertion is true, as no traces of any other ruins are to be met with in any direction in the parish, which no doubt would have been the case if another monastery ever had existed there. I have been informed that, without the present walls of the priory precinct, when plowing deep, the traces of other buildings have been met with. These are, however, too near the present

monastery to confirm such an opinion. These ruins, if any there be, stand more in the parish of Keswick, and towards the sea, and may probably be some of the fallen remains of the walls of Broomholme.

Near the church at Bacton some years back some walls, apparently of the same date as those of the abbey were standing, but these were situated far away from Broomholme, and at the western extremity of Bacton, and if conjecture may be allowed, were probably the remains of the castle of William de Glanville, as they stood upon elevated ground, which spots were generally selected for the feudal castle in the middle ages, and must have joined the church. This therefore cannot throw any light upon the existence of the other monastery.

Speed and Weever state also that one of these monasteries was built for Cluniac monks, dedicated to St. Sepulchre, and the other of Benedictines dedicated to St. Andrew.

There appears to me to be some confusion here, as the order of Cluni was one branch of St. Benedict, so that Speed and Weever make a separation where no separation ought to exist.

The priory of Broomholme was dedicated to St. Andrew, and therefore contradicts the assertion of its being dedicated to St. Sepulchre, and was inhabited by monks of the Cluniac order, and not regular Benedictines.

The seal of the prior will also contradict this. I have casts of two of these seals now before me. The one belonging to the prior is round and large, about four inches in diameter; the original is of red wax, the impress is the west end of the priory church; under an arch in the centre is the figure of St. Andrew seated, a glory round his head, his right hand elevated, and holding a cross, supposed to represent the cross or rood of this

priory, his left hand sustaining a book, and in an arch over this the bust of the Virgin, with the infant Jesus in her arms. The legend is somewhat broken, but what remains is as follows :

“ Sancti Andree de Brom”

It will, therefore, be seen, that sufficient remains perfectly intelligible to prove the dedication of this priory to St. Andrew, and not as Speed and Weever state, St. Sepulchre.

Booth in his History of Norfolk states respecting this seal, “The legend was, but it is somewhat broken,

‘ Sigillum prioris et conventus, Sej. Andree de Bromhold.’ ”

In English thus : The seal of the priory and convent of St. Andrew at Broomholme.

The smaller seal, which is oblong, has in the centre the Virgin with the child Jesus in her right hand. The legend is nearly obliterated.

If another convent ever had an existence here, it is matter of surprise that nothing has been left by way of history, nor in the shape of ruins to ascertain its site.

C.

This indenture, made the 20th day of September, in the 2nd year of the reign of King Henry VIII, between John Winchelsea, prior of the monastery of our blessed Lady of Castleacre and the convent of the same place on the one part, and the Right Rev. father in God, John Bishop of Calcedony, prior of the monastery of St. Andrew of Bromeholme, and the convent of the same place on the other part, Witnesseth that, whereas the predecessors of the said prior of Castleacre, peaceably time out of mind,

have been seized and possessed by the hands of the predecessors of the said prior of Bromeholme of and in a certain pension or annuity of £15 6s. 8d., grounded and made by an old composition bearing date the year of our Lord God 1229, pridie idus Aprilis, between the predecessors of the said priors of Castleacre and Bromeholme and the convents of the same, as by the same composition more plainly it may appear. Which annuity or pension one John Amfles, late prior of the said monastery of Castleacre, by the name of John prior of the monastery of our Lady of Castleacre, late recorded by a writ of annuity against John Marsham, then prior of the said monastery of Bromeholme, by the name of John prior of St. Andrew of Bromeholme, as more plainly it may appear by the same record. Nevertheless the said John Winchelsea, prior of Castleacre and the convent of the same, considering the great ruinous decay of the said monastery of Bromeholme, as well in the falling down of the houses as in debts and other dangers wherewith the said prior of Bromeholme now standeth charged, by the reason whereof the said prior of Bromeholme is not able to pay all the said annuity or pension according to his duty, and at the instance, mediation and consent, as well of the Rev. father in God John Ashdown, now prior of the monastery of St. Pancras of Lewes, ordinary immediate of the said place of Castleacre as at the mediation of the friends of the said priors of Castleacre and Bromeholme with the assent and consent of the convent of the said place of Castleacre, hath given and granted, and by this indenture dischargeth and granteth for him and his successors to the said prior of Bromeholme, and his successors priors of Bromeholme, 63s. 8d., parcel of the said annuity of £15 6s. 8d., to have and to retain to him and his said successors yearly during the time of five years from the feast of the nativity of St.

John Baptist, which shall be in the year of our Lord God 1511, unto the said feast of the nativity of St. John Baptist, which shall be in the year of our Lord God 1517; provided always that the said prior of Bromeholme and his said successors truly do content and pay to the said prior of Castleacre and his successors and assigns, yearly during the said five years, the residue of the said annuity of £15 6s. 8d., that is to say, £12 of lawful English money in manner and form following; that is to say, at the feast of the nativity of St. John Baptist which shall be in the year of our Lord God 1511, £6, and at the feast of St. Martin the Bishop in Winter next following that other, and so from thenceforth from year to year at the feasts of the nativity of John Baptist and St. Martin the Bishop in Winter £12 of lawful money of England by even portions during the said five years, and at the feast of the nativity of St. John Baptist, which shall be in the year of our Lord God 1516, £7 13s. 4d., and at the feast of St. Martin the Bishop in Winter next following £7 13s. 4d. and so forth from year to year at the said feasts £15 6s. 8d. by even portions, according to the said record and old composition; the which annuity of £12 parcel of the said annuity of £15 6s. 8d. during the said five years, and the said £15 6s. 8d. after the end of the said five years to be paid by the said prior of Bromeholme and his successors and assigns within the space of twelve days after any of the said feasts. And if it happen the said annuity of £12, residue of the said annuity of £15 6s. 8d. during the said five years, or the said annuity of £15 6s. 8d., after the term of the said five years to be behind in part or in all and unpaid to the said prior of Castleacre or to his successors after the space of twelve days ensuing any of the feasts as is above specified, then the said prior of Bromeholme with the assent of the convent of the same place

granteth by this indenture for him and his successors to the said prior of Castleacre, and his successors, assigns, &c., that it shall be lawful to him and his successors and assigns to distrain in the manors of Witton, Caisewick, and Bacton in the county of Norfolk, and also in Burgh Castle in the county of Suffolk, and in all other lands and tenements of the said prior of Bromeholme in the said counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. And the distresses so taken to lead and carry away, impound and retain unto such time as the arrears of the said annuity of £12 during the said five years, and the arrearages of the said £15 6s. 8d. after the end and term of the said five years and any parcel thereof so being behind and not paid to the said prior of Castleacre and his successors and assigns with their expenses and costs of the same for that occasion had unto the said prior of Castleacre and his successors and assigns be fully paid and content. And if any resistance be made, or any replevy be sued against the said prior of Castleacre or his successors or assigns, or against any of their tenants for any distress, that hereafter shall be taken by them or any of them, for the arrearages of the said annuity of £12 parcel of the said annuity of £15 6s. 8d. continuing the time of the said five years or for the arrearages of the said annuity of £15 6s. 8d. after the time of the said five years or that a sufficient distress be not found in the said manors, lands, and tenements, or any parcel of them, then the said prior of Bromeholme, by the assent of his said convent, giveth to the said prior of Castleacre and his successors £10 in the name of a pain for every such default of payment as afore is rehearsed, and that it shall be lawful to the said prior of Castleacre and his successors to distrain in all the said manors, lands, and tenements for the same pain as often as it shall happen to be due. Moreover it is agreed between the said priors and their convent that

this indenture or any thing contained in the same shall not be prejudicial nor hurt to the said old composition concerning the nomination and making of a new prior of the said place of Bromeholme as often as it shall hereafter happen or fortune the same priory of Bromeholme to be void, but that the said old composition concerning the nomination and making of a new prior of Bromeholme to be effectual and stand in his full strength and virtue this indenture in any thing notwithstanding. In witness whereof to the one part of this indenture remaining with the said prior and convent of Bromeholme the said prior and convent of Castleacre have set their convent and common seals, and to the other part of this indenture remaining with the said prior and convent of Castleacre the said prior and convent of Bromeholme in their chapter-house of Bromeholme have set their convent and common seals the day and year above written.

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